

**DISPENSER**, Bookkeeper (Lady), Apothecaries' Hall, desires post in London; good references and experience. Durand, 11c Oxford and Cambridge Mansions, Marylebone Road, N.W.

**GOOD** country experience, with possible interest or succession later; Minor qualification; aged 25 years; business ability; excellent references. "Chemist," North Bank, Belstead Road, Ipswich.

**MANAGER** or Senior; qualified; 26; experience of high-class Dispensing and Retail, surgeon's trade, fitting surgical appliances, photography. Potter, Yew Tree Cottage, Allerton, Liverpool.

**QUALIFIED** English Chemist, with excellent experience and references, speaking French, seeks an engagement for the summer months; England or Continent. "Egypt" (82/28), Office of this Paper.

**COMPETENT** Branch Manager or outdoor Assistant; 33; single; unqualified; good varied experience; Prescriber; abstainer; good references; permanency; liberty April 11. "Chemist," 6 Victoria Terrace, Burnley.

**UNQUALIFIED**, energetic Assistant, capable of taking entire charge; thorough experience in Photography, Dispensing, Counter-work, Store trade; good Window-dresser; good references of 2 years; outdoors. 161/2, Office of this Paper.

### WHOLESALE.

**JUNIOR**; 22; experienced Wets, Drys; good references. "Radix" (159/26), Office of this Paper.

**TRAVELLER**; Drugs, Packed Goods; extensive established connection. 159/35, Office of this Paper.

**ASSISTANT** Essence-maker, 4 years' experience, seeks post in good firm; references. 158/36, Office of this Paper.

**YOUNG** man (24) seeks situation as Traveller; highest references; disengaged April 5th. 158/26, Office of this Paper.

**PHARMACEUTICAL** Chemist (young) desires position in Wholesale or Manufacturing firm. 161/29, Office of this Paper.

**YOUNG** Chemist (8 years' Retail experience) wishes to represent Sundries house in the North. 157/13, Office of this Paper.

**ASSISTANT** seeks situation, Drys, Wets; good experience, good references; salary no object. 159/24, Office of this Paper.

**DOCTOR** in Chemistry (24), Dutchman, German deezee, seeks situation at Laboratory or Manufactury. 83/16, Office of this Paper.

**QUALIFIED** Chemist (27), experienced in all branches, wishes to Represent good firm. "Energetic" (62/35), Office of this Paper.

**TRAVELLER** open to represent good house, or will accept good commission; excellent references. "K." (163/1), Office of this Paper.

**WHOLESALE** position required; experienced; Sundries, Wet or Dry Counter or Office. "W.," 22 Gloucester Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**CHECKING** and Despatch, Dry Counter, &c.; many years' experience Packed Drugs; reliable Manufacturer. Hill, 39 Tollington Park, N.

**JUNIOR** (22), wishing to leave Retail, desires suitable position with Wholesale house; over 4 years' experience. Diplock, Chapman, Esher, Surrey.

**ADVERTISER** (32), with 10 years' Wholesale experience, wishes responsible position in Wholesale, or as Representative. 160/6, Office of this Paper.

**ADVERTISER** (27) seeks position in Wholesale; qualified; Wholesale and Retail experience; disengaged end of April. 155/29, Office of this Paper.

**TRAVELLER** (good experience amongst medical men and veterinary surgeons) desires Representation of first-class house. 162/20, Office of this Paper.

**PHARMACEUTICAL** Chemist seeks situation in the Wholesale, where good experience could be gained; abstainer; 24. "Jalap" (153/27), Office of this Paper.

**PH.C., F.C.S.** with several years' experience as Analyst, Chemist, and Laboratory manager to large Manufacturing house, is open to take similar engagement; or will entertain Partnership in going concern; highest references and qualifications. "Mars" (160/31), Office of this Paper.

**WANTED**, situation as Manager of Proprietary Articles manufacturer; 5 years' experience; aged 33; good references. Address, Day, 47 Lambeth Palace Road, S.E.

**REPRESENTATIVE**.—Perfumery, Soap, or Druggists' Sundries; S. and W. England, Midlands and S. Wales; 20 years' trade experience. 158/5, Office of this Paper.

**SCOTCHMAN**, about 20; 5ft. 10 in.; 4½ years' good practical Retail experience, desires Wholesale situation. "Helium," c/o Skiuner, M.P.S., 26 Widmore Road, Bromley, Kent.

**TRAVELLER**, with sound connection in Provinces, wishes another Commission from Manufacturer; Sundries or Speciality for Wholesale or Retail. "J. D.," 3 Plumpton Street, Wakefield.

**GENTLEMAN** representing important firm, calling upon Chemists, Grocers, &c., Eastern and Southern Counties, desires correspondence with first-class firm with view of Representation on half terms, or entirely. 163/7, Office of this Paper.

**APPOINTMENT**; Wholesale or Manufacturing house (country); Minor qualification; aged 23 years; well-educated and of good ability; retail experience, also in Wholesale establishment of repute. "G. O. M." (160/14), Office of this Paper.

**A GENTLEMAN** desires position in Canada as Representative or Agent (Travelling or otherwise) for firm of good repute only; Medical and Veterinary experience; highest references. "Press," "Canada" (159/21), Office of this Paper.

**GENTLEMAN** (Manchester), representing a leading firm at present time, open for appointment as Representative for first-class house; Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire; Soap, Perfumery, or Proprietary line; highest references. "E." (159/5), Office of this Paper.

**GERMAN** (22), excellent Correspondent, thorough knowledge of English, some French, Shorthand, Typist, Bookkeeping (d.e.), 4 years' experience with Drysalts and Druggists, seeks situation London or Provinces. Address, E. L., 15 Romola Road, Herne Hill, London, S.E.

## RADIUM

A Firm of Wholesale Druggists  
is open to purchase - - -

## RADIUM

of good activity to any amount  
for spot cash. - - -

Two conditions only:  
Immediate delivery, and high  
activity.

Quote stating whether 5 milligrammes of  
the brand will light up a Barium Platino  
Cyanide Screen distinctly through 46  
pennies.

83/32, Office of "The Chemist and Druggist,"  
42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

## College Notes.

**FOOTBALL.**—A match in the Inter-Pharmacy Cup competition between Metropolitan College and Square was played at Acton on March 12, and, after a keen and interesting game, ended in a win for the "Metros." by 4 goals to 1. The "Metros." have now finished in this competition, and come out with the following record:

Matches Played	Matches Won	Goals for	Goals against	Points 16
8	8	56	6	

**IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF CHEMISTRY.**—On Wednesday, March 16, the students of this College, with their Principal (Mr. Frederick Davis), visited the Government Laboratories, and were received by Dr. Thorpe. The whole afternoon was occupied in seeing the analytical processes carried out in relation to butter, milk, beer, spirit, sugar, wool-naphtha, paints, alloys, soap, and tinctures. Much information was gleaned by the students. The pertinent questions of Mr. Frederick Davis caused an extra flow of eloquence if at any time the explanations became drowsy or seemed to "flag." Mr. Grant-Hooper in one department proved a most painstaking and instructive monitor.

**THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS** are advertising in this issue:—

School of Pharmacy, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.  
Westminster College of Pharmacy, Trinity Square, Borough, S.E.  
South London School of Pharmacy, 325 Kennington Road, S.E.  
Metropolitan College of Pharmacy, 160 to 162 Kennington Park Road, S.E.  
London College of Pharmacy, 323 Clapham Road, S.W.  
Leeds College of Pharmacy, Clarendon Road, Leeds.  
Royal Dispensary, 21 West Richmond Street, Edinburgh.  
Liverpool School of Pharmacy, 6 Sandon Terrace, Upper Duke Street, Liverpool.  
Burlington Correspondence College, 8 Crescent Grove, Clapham Common, S.W.

## Coming Events.

*Notices for insertion under this heading should be received by the Editor on Wednesday of each week.*

### Monday, March 21.

*Society of Arts*, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 P.M. Cantor Lecture (III.). Mr. Bertram Blount, "Recent Advances in Electro-Chemistry."

### Tuesday, March 22.

*Bradford Chemists' Association*, Royal Hotel, Darley Street, at 9 P.M. Mr. W. R. Maund on "Co-operative Production and Distribution by Registered Chemists."  
*Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club*, 36 York Place, at 9 P.M. Annual general meeting.  
*Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain*, 66 Russell Square, W.C., at 8 P.M. Mr. A. Watkins on "A New Link between Calculating and Effecting Camera-exposures," and "A New Print-meter."

### Wednesday, March 23.

*British Optical Association*, Vernon Hospital, Fitzroy Square, W., at 8 P.M. Mr. M. W. Duncombe on "The Best Method of Marking the Axis of a Cylindrical Lens," and Mr. J. H. Sutcliffe on "The Sleight of Hand of Sight-testing."  
*Wolverhampton Chemists' Association*, Star and Garter Hotel, at 8.30 P.M. Mr. Perry (Birmingham) will give an address.  
*Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association*, 36 York Place, at 9 P.M. Mr. Bertram Cockburn will give a paper on "Preparing, Staining, and Mounting Microscopical Objects," with demonstrations.

### Thursday, March 24.

*Mineral-water Bottle-exchange and Trade-protection Society (Limited)*, Hotel Cecil, W.C. Annual dinner.  
*Burnley Chemists' Association*, Empress Hotel, at 8 P.M. annual meeting. 9 P.M., hot-pot supper and social.

### Friday, March 25.

*Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly W., at 9 P.M. Professor Dewar on "Liquid-hydrogen Calorimetry."

## Stamped-medicine Notes.

### Some Lozenge-handbills.

Messrs. Meggeson & Co. (Limited) have long used certain handbills drafted by the late Mr. Meggeson, sen., which were passed by the Board of Inland Revenue as "Not liable to duty." Owing to the changes in the interpretation of the law, the handbills have again been submitted to the Board, and with the same result—viz., "Not liable to duty." We subjoin the wording in full by courtesy of Messrs. Meggeson:

#### DELECTABLE LOZENGES.

Composed of marshmallow, licorice, tolu, and other excellent demulcent and expectorant ingredients.

These lozenges have acquired and maintained for many years a preference and celebrity in public demand, and more particularly by public speakers and singers, who require some simple useful article that may be taken in any quantity in ordinary cases, and as a protection against the changes of the weather—from cold and its many consequences. There are in this particular composition concentrated all the excellent demulcent soothing qualities of these favourite household medicines, and so combined that the qualities of each are greatly enhanced and at the same time so portable and palatable as to be particularly adapted to children and invalids.

#### THROAT-PASTILLES.

These pastilles are an excellent and valuable combination, and have proved one of the most palatable forms for the administration of a thoroughly reliable composition.

They do not contain any hurtful ingredient, and may be used freely with the greatest advantage, and are highly recommended to speakers, singers, and others on leaving public meetings and heated rooms.

These pastilles are the result of a long practical experience, and will be found a great comfort to all who use them.

#### VOICE-JUJUBES.

Recommended to public speakers and singers, and for general use as an agreeable, prompt, and effective means of invigorating and strengthening the organs of the voice.

There is nothing more unpleasant than a rough, weak, or uncertain voice in either speaking or singing. The organs of the voice are unavoidably exposed to all the changes and inclemency of the weather, and particularly on leaving heated rooms and public meetings at night when the air is damp and cold. It is the object of these jujubes to give power and tone to the voice in speaking and singing and as a means of comfort to all who are exposed to the irregularities of temperature and climate. They may be taken at any time without restriction with the greatest benefit and advantage.

### Easton's Syrup.

Early in 1902 a C. & D. subscriber submitted to the Board of Inland Revenue, amongst other labels, one for Easton's syrup, as to which the Secretary said:

As regards the label submitted in the case of the "Easton syrup," I am to explain that if the syrup is one prepared according to the British Pharmacopœia, and that fact is stated on the label, there would be no liability to duty. The words "Easton syrup" must not, however, be used, it being understood that the formula *sy. ferri phos. c. quina et strychnina* of the British Pharmacopœia of 1838 is not a synonym of Easton's syrup, the latter being made from a different formula.

The label was again submitted last month, not out of curiosity, but in the hope that recent changed interpretations may have had some effect in this matter. The following is the official reply:

Inland Revenue, Somerset House, W.C.

31st December, 1903.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 12th inst., I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to acquaint you that if the syrup in question is prepared in accordance with a formula in the British Pharmacopœia, and the fact is stated in a conspicuous place on the bottle, the use of the label forwarded by you would not involve liability to medicine stamp-duty.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. E. STOODLEY, Secretary.

We may recall the fact that the present Attorney-General (as a member of the Bar) gave as his opinion that medicines which bear the names of their originators, and which never have been proprietary or secret remedies, do not come within the general charge of duty.





A Weekly Journal of Pharmacy and the Drug-trade.  
ESTABLISHED 1859.

Head Office: 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Branch Offices: ADELAIDE, MELBOURNE, AND SYDNEY AUSTRALIA.

Telegraphic Address: "Chemicus London."

Telephone No.: 852 Bank.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Ten shillings a year in advance, post free to any part of the world, including a copy of *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary* next published. Single copy, 4d.; Summer or Winter Number, 1s.; *Diary*, 3s. 6d. Postal orders and cheques to be crossed "Martin's Bank (Limited)."

#### AS AN OFFICIAL ORGAN

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is supplied by subscription to the whole of the members of NINETEEN PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETIES in the British Empire, including Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the West Indies.

#### CONTENTS: Vol. LXIV. No. 12 (Series No. 1,260).

PAGE	PAGE
Association Ballads .....	400
American Notes .....	481
Bankruptcies and Failures .....	466
Births .....	469
B.P. Melting points .....	479
Business Changes .....	467
Canadian Notes .....	452
Chemical Society .....	471
Colonial and Foreign News .....	481
Correspondence .....	472
Deaths .....	458
Duty-free Alcohol, cartoon .....	482
Editorial Comments:—	
Adequate Disclosure .....	462
Bill 6 .....	463
The Pharmacy Bill .....	464
Note .....	464
English News .....	448
Festivities .....	469
French News .....	451
Gazette .....	467
Irish News .....	450
Legal Reports .....	465
Marriages .....	469
New Books .....	460
New Companies and Companies News .....	463
Observations and Reflections .....	461
Patent-medicine Vendors' Association .....	471
Personalities .....	452
"Pharmaceutical Formulas," II. ....	453
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain: North British Branch ...	453
Practical Notes .....	469
Recent Wills .....	453
Scientific Progress .....	460
Scotch News .....	451
South African News .....	480
Trade marks Applied for .....	482
Trade Notes .....	467
Trade Report .....	475
Westminster Wisdom .....	470
Winter Session of Chemists' Associations:	
Edinburgh Trade, North Staffs .....	454
Reading, Midlands, C.A.A., Edinburgh Assistants .....	455
Western .....	456
Dover, Brighton, Preston Cardiff, Blackpool, Hartlepool .....	457

In Coloured Supplement:

College Notes | Coming Events

#### COLONIAL TRADE.

##### A MEMORANDUM TO ADVERTISERS.

THE best of British export business in chemicals, drugs, and allied products and manufactures is done in Colonial markets. Secure a share of it by advertising in the Colonial Issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,

April 30, 1904.

This journal has unequalled influence with Colonial buyers, as is attested by the fact that no fewer than sixteen Societies of chemists and druggists in the British Colonies have adopted THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST as their official organ.

For full particulars apply to the Publisher, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

## Summary.

A REGENT STREET COMPANY have been fined for selling unstamped proprietaries (p. 465).

A PATENT LAW FOR HOLLAND is urged by the Central Bureau of Commercial Treaties of Berlin (page 481).

THE REVISED PROSPECTUS of the Spectacle-makers' Company, dealing with sight-testing, is described on p. 448.

AN AVERAGE FEE of 5s. 10d. was paid by the Government to doctors in 1903 for 3,197,192 vaccinations (p. 470).

PILL-COATING is a perennial subject with little novelty about it but some ideas come to us from Edinburgh (p. 455).

ANOTHER SCORE OF GENTLEMEN connected with the drug-trade have been elected as members of public bodies (p. 443).

JUDGE SMYLEN, of Shoreditch, has decided views in regard to "covering" of drug companies by qualified chemists (p. 455).

"WHEN IT TIRETH THEE, essay the other door, valiant St. Thomas," is the inscription to a duty-free alcohol cartoon on p. 482.

DR. WALDO, the London Coroner, has made some pertinent remarks in regard to the sale of toxic acids by oilmen and grocers (p. 449).

THE chemistry of coca-leaves, green-tea cigarettes, oil of boldo, and sparteine forms the subject of paragraphs in Scientific Progress (p. 460).

VINEGAR, mace, camphorated oil, and arsenical cream of tartar are the subjects of Sale of Food and Drugs Acts prosecutions reported on p. 466.

THE PROPOSED C.O.D. SYSTEM for the parcel-post was discussed by West London chemists this week, and a mixture of opinions was the result (p. 457).

A WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL is now before the House of Commons, which proposes, *inter alia*, to abolish apothecaries' weights. For particulars see p. 463.

MESSRS. FERRIS & Co., of Bristol, have registered their business as a limited company, and Houghton's (Limited) is the name of a new amalgamation (p. 468).

CAMBRIDGE is this week's subject for an Association ballad, from which we learn that beside the flowing Can is a pleasant pasture for the pharmaceutical lamb (p. 460).

EDINBURGH CHEMISTS are not eager about combined buying. They have faith in the give-and-take principle which regards wholesale houses as friends and helpers (p. 454).

"THE MIXTURE, as prescribed by the late Dr. Begbie," is an example of non-liable titles which the Edinburgh Chemists' Trade Association has had official notification of (p. 454).

AN interim dividend of 8 per cent. has been paid by A. & F. Pears (Limited), 5 per cent. by Barclay & Sons (Limited), and 10 per cent. by Southall Brothers & Barclay (Limited) (p. 468).

THE PROPOSAL respecting the B.P. method of ascertaining melting-points brings us letters from Professor W. A. Tilden, Dr. F. B. Power, and Messrs. Halbing & Passmore, which are printed on p. 479.

MR. JOHN McMILLAN, the well-known Glasgow chemist, is dead. He was called "the Martindale of Scotland." Another notable Glasgow chemist, Mr. James Robb, has also joined the majority (p. 459).

WE APPREHEND SOME FRICTION between the Revenue authorities and chemists regarding the disclosure on labels of the principal ingredients of exempted medicines, and comment fully on the subject, giving illustrations (p. 462).

THE PHARMACY BILL is now blocked by four members. Our Parliamentary representative says the prospects of the Bill are hopeless, and has interviewed Sir Mark Stewart, Bart., and Mr. A. Cross, two of the blockers (p. 470). We show how fallacious are the grounds of these gentlemen's opposition, and suggest that it will be good for the Bill (p. 461).

THE chief feature of the markets is a substantial advance in cod-liver oil, which was anticipated by us in our issue of February 20. The demand for ipecacuanha has been well maintained and prices are again higher. Consequent on the small bark-shipments from Java, one German maker has advanced his price for quinine by 1/2d. per oz. Hypophosphites are dearer (p. 475).



## English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Mr. W. J. Hallett, chemist and druggist, Bath, has written to the local papers explaining the purport of the new Pharmacy Bill.

One of Burroughs Wellcome & Co.'s motors broke down on Lampit Hill, S.E., on March 15. The vehicle backed into a garden-wall and caused some damage.

The Timothy White Company, chemists, Portsmouth and elsewhere, have offered to sell land at Deal for the widening of Board Street for 1600*l.*, but the Corporation on March 11 decided to offer 1,000*l.* only.

On March 11 a fire occurred on the premises of Mr. David John Lewis, chemist and druggist, at 133 Clifton Street, Cardiff, owing to the overheating of some camphorated oil. The contents of the shop were destroyed, the damage being estimated at 500*l.*

On March 11 a meeting of local amateur photographers of Workington and district was held at the office of Messrs. Carruthers & Taylor, chemists and druggists, Station Road, and as a result it was agreed to form a photographic association, with Mr. J. R. Taylor, chemist and druggist, as hon. secretary.

The late Mr. E. Turner, chemist, Newcastle, Staffs., has bequeathed 2,000*l.* to provide two scholarships (one being for chemistry) at the endowed schools of that town. Sir O. Lodge, who is a governor, has expressed a desire to be consulted when the conditions are drawn up.

The judicial decision at Manchester last week mulcting a laundry proprietor for damages in respect of a tablecloth which had been spoiled by the marking has given quite a fillip to the sale of marking-ink, and pharmacists will do well to consult "Pharmaceutical Formulas" for a reliable recipe.

Mr. Alderman H. Potter (Potter & Clarke, Artillery Lane, E.), on March 11, formally opened new dwellings, which have been erected by the Stepney Corporation on a portion of an area cleared under the London Improvement Scheme. The buildings have been named the "Potter Dwellings" in honour of Mr. Alderman Potter, who is ex-Mayor of the Borough.

At the annual meeting in connection with the General Infirmary at Leeds, on March 11, it was stated that drugs and surgical appliances for 1903 cost 5,993*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with 5,160*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* in 1902. The sum of 450*l.* extra had been paid for drugs and 199*l.* for surgical dressings. In commenting upon the increased cost of drugs, the Chairman pointed out that cod-liver oil had cost 100*l.* more than last year.

### Sight-testing Examination.

The revised prospectus of the Spectacle-makers' Company contains a division devoted to this new subject. The two sections of the examination in sight-testing are (1) a written examination in optics, as applied to sight-testing; (2) a practical examination in the adaptation of lenses to correct errors of vision. In the near future the Company may require evidence of experience before admitting a candidate to the examination. The diploma in sight-testing will only be granted to a candidate who has already gained the diploma in general optics. The syllabus mentions the subjects required for the examination, as (1) the theory and methods of the determination and correction of errors of refraction and accommodation in the healthy human eye; (2) the determination of visual activity, the practical correction of errors of refraction and accommodation by subjective methods, muscle-testing, a knowledge of the instruments used for objective sight-testing, and colour-blindness.

### Wholesale Chemists' and Druggists' Cricket Championship.

Clubs in trades that are closely allied to wholesale chemists and druggists are invited to compete for the silver

Challenge Cup in 1904. All particulars may be obtained from Mr. E. Sibley, 64 Park Street, Southwark, S.E.

### Licences.

At Hastings adjourned Licensing Sessions on March 9, Mr. Harold Edgar Skyrme, chemist and druggist, of 12 Wellington Place, was granted an off wine-licence.

Mr. William Forster, pharmaceutical chemist, Church Street, Seaham Harbour, Mr. Wm. Dennis, chemist and druggist, Grant Street, Jarrow, and Mr. William Wilkinson Stead, chemist and druggist, 1,252 Leeds Road, Bradford, have been refused off wine-licences.

The Halifax Magistrates were not at all in a gracious humour towards the Halifax chemists on March 11. At the Police Court Mr. Longbottom, of the Old Cock Hotel—the headquarters of the Halifax Chemists' Association—applied for an hour's extension on the occasion of a social in connection with the Halifax Chemists' Association on March 17. Replying to the Chief Constable the applicant said he believed this was "the ladies' night," and about forty people were expected to be present. He was requested by the Secretary to the Association to make the application, which, after consideration, the Bench refused.

At the adjourned Brewster Sessions for the City of Leeds, held on March 10, an application was made for the removal of a restriction on Mr. Huntrods, a Holbeck drug-store proprietor, by which he was allowed to sell only "medicated" wines. It was pointed out that the authorities do not recognise "medicated" wines, and Mr. Huntrods desired to sell cheap port wine. In another case the members of the Bench admitted that they did not know what constitutes "medicated" wine. A chemist was examined by the Chairman, but failed to throw any light on the matter. The Chairman intimated that they would get the necessary information before the next Brewster Sessions; in the meantime Mr. Huntrods's application was refused.

### Birmingham Notes.

Owing to changes in the constitution of Messrs. Palmer & Co.'s business Mr. Walter Bridgewood, who was a junior partner in the firm, is now seeking fresh pastures.

The Birmingham University external examiners for the year are Professor J. B. Farmer, F.R.S. (a former pharmaceutical examiner) for botany, and Mr. H. B. Baker, F.R.S., for chemistry.

A beautiful photographic gem depicting *Digitalis purpurea* on a Welsh hill, by Mr. Arthur Partridge, of Messrs. Southall's apparatus department, has secured a bronze medal at the annual local Photographic Exhibition.

The sale of the library of a late eminent member of the bar, which included several B.P.s and CHEMIST AND DRUGGISTS, recalls the legal fights for which Birmingham was at one time famous, and in which distinguished pharmacists played a successful part.

### Sheffield Notes.

Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme is to have a contest for his seat on the Board of Guardians for the first time since he was returned twelve years ago. There are four candidates for three seats.

Mr. Walter Mell Cooper, Ph.C., Sheffield, has been appointed as assistant in the galenical laboratory at Bloomsbury Square. Mr. Cooper, who received his training at Sheffield University College, was apprenticed with Mr. Newsholme. He completed his studies under Mr. Watson-Will at the Metropolitan College of Pharmacy, and passed the Major last December. He is twenty-two years of age.

### Drugging Horses.

Two cases of "unlawfully administering poisonous drugs to horses" were heard last week. In one case, at Horn-castle, Charles Edison, waggoner, Worlaby, was charged with stealing 2 lbs. of blue vitriol, the property of his employer, a farmer, and also with administering it to four of his master's horses. Edison admitted stealing the drug during the wheat-dressing time, and also admitted giving some to the horses to "keep the humour down." The first charge was dismissed, and on the second charge Edison was fined 2*l.* and costs (4*s.* 6*d.*), or one month's imprisonment.



At Steaford Petty Sessions on March 14, Elward Pales, waggoner, was charged with administering poisonous drugs to the horses of George Godson, farmer, Aswarby. Defendant pleaded that he was not aware the powders were poisonous. He gave them to the horses to improve their condition. A fine of 5*l.*, or a month's hard labour, was imposed.

#### Chemists as Public Men.

The following elections and re-elections have taken place:

Mr. R. Knowles, chemist and druggist, to Morecambe Board of Guardians.

Mr. H. C. H. Oliver, chemist and druggist, to West Malling Parish Council.

Mr. Thomas Holden, chemist and druggist, to Royton Urban Council.

Mr. G. C. Row, chemist and druggist, to Braintree Urban District Council.

Mr. Thomas P. Pechey, chemist and druggist, to Maldon Board of Guardians.

Mr. Fredk. W. Bates, chemist and druggist, to Stretford Urban District Council.

Mr. G. Stafford Allen, manufacturing chemist, to Long Melford Parish Council.

Mr. Isaac Sutcliffe, chemist and druggist, to Chapel-en-le-Frith Board of Guardians.

Mr. James Butler, chemist and druggist, to West Bromwich Board of Guardians.

Mr. Thomas Driver, chemist and druggist, to Much Woolton Urban District Council.

Mr. Charles Alfred Tily, chemist and druggist, to Riverhead (Sevenoaks) Parish Council.

Mr. Wm. Oldershaw, chemist and druggist, of Strilley, to Basford Rural District Council.

Mr. W. Haythornthwaite, chemist and druggist, to Docking (Lynn) Urban District Council.

Mr. Thomas Dryden, chemist and druggist, Neath Road, Landore, to the Swansea Board of Guardians.

Mr. Josiah Hyde, manufacturing chemist, High Street, Wednesfield, to the Wolverhampton Board of Guardians.

Mr. H. W. Colley, chemist and druggist, and Mr. M. Cook, chemist and druggist, to the Grimsby Board of Guardians.

Mr. H. W. G. Morris, who esale and retail chemist, to be an Overseer of the Poor for the Borough of Chipping Norton.

Mr. William Elliott, chemist and druggist, of 97 Devonport Road. Shepherd's Bush, W., to the Hammersmith Board of Guardians.

The Election Committee of the Bradford Chamber of Trades has determined to present six candidates at the Board of Guardians' election. The candidate chosen for the Western Division is Mr. R. W. Silson, chemist and druggist, Church Street.

#### Poor-law Notes.

Mr. W. A. Knight has been appointed dispenser of medicines to the Southwark Board of Guardians.

Mr. R. Smith has been appointed chemist to the Retford Board of Guardians for the ensuing half-year.

In communicating to the Skipton Board of Guardians their approval of the appointment of Dr. Waugh as the medical officer for the Skipton district and of Dr. Haig for the Addingham district, the Local Government Board said they had long been of opinion that it was most desirable that the cost of supplying medicines to the sick poor should be borne by the Boards of Guardians and not by the medical officers, and asked the Board to give the matter their consideration. The Clerk said the Local Government Board have an idea that paupers outside the workhouse are treated from what is called a "stock-bottle." Mr. F. J. Wilson said it was a grave reflection upon their medical officers; and the board then went on to the "next business."

#### The Coroner and Poisons.

Dr. F. J. Waldo, Coroner for the City of London and Southwark, on March 12 held an inquest in regard to the death of Elizabeth Victoria Bowman (54), the wife of an engineer's labourer, Newington Causeway, who poisoned herself with oxalic acid. The Coroner's officer said the most careful search had failed to trace any bottle or packet giving a clue to where the poison was obtained. Dr. Waldo remarked that if persons made up their minds to poison themselves they would obtain the poison sooner or later, but he was sorry to say that under the existing state of the law every possible facility was given to get the necessary poison.

A Juror: I always thought that poisons could not be bought very easily.

The Coroner: It is the greatest mistake you ever made, for you could get enough to kill a whole family in a few minutes. At the City Mortuary I have a museum of poison cups and bottles, and the history in at least two cases was that children under fourteen purchased poison for the demented parent. We have a very strict and punishable law that a child under fourteen must not be served with drink, yet no law to prevent the sale of poison.

Dr. Waldo went on to point out that for years the Pharmaceutical Society, and chemists' associations, coroners, scientists, &c., had been hammering away to get the present disgraceful state of the law altered. What, he asked, is the use of putting restrictions on the sale of arsenic, prussic acid, and other poisons, when oxalic acid, carbolic, and a dozen other acids just as deadly can be bought by children in cups and public-house beer-cans at the oil-hop or grocer's? The deceased, he added, had probably got the oxalic acid by saying it was to clean brass, but there are plenty of safe polishes for brass that render the sale of oxalic acid for that purpose unnecessary. The Foreman asked what is being done at the present moment to get the law altered; and Dr. Waldo replied that he had reason to believe that there is a strong movement on foot, but he could not speak with certainty. As a member of the Coroners' Society he could say that that body is fully in accord with the Pharmaceutical Society in trying to get legislation to have the sale of all poisons confined to those whose study and education taught them the danger of the articles. The jury quite agreed with Dr. Waldo's remarks, and added to their verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind, "We are of unanimous opinion that the present state of the law that allows the unrestricted sale of deadly poisons, drugs, or acids, is a source of public danger and an incentive to the committal of crime."

#### Burglary.

The recently opened premises of Boots, Cash Chemists (Limited), in High Holborn were visited by burglars during the night of March 11. An entrance was effected through a back window on the third floor, and, after forcing several locks, the visitors annexed a leather bag from the portmanteau department and descended to the fancy-goods departments on the ground floor and basement. Here the stock was carefully gone over, and the more valuable pieces of silver-ware selected. Much damage was done to other articles of stock, which apparently did not meet with the burglars' approval, toilet-bottles, brush-trays, and mirrors being destroyed. Damage estimated at 200*l.* was done by the burglars, and those enterprising gentlemen, who are evidently experts in their profession, are still at large.

#### Free Carbolic Acid.

When the Sanitary Committee of the Middlesborough Corporation met on March 15 the Town Clerk announced that he had received a letter from the Secretary of the Teesside Chemists' Association (Mr. W. Finlayson) concerning the free distribution by the local authorities of carbolic acid. Mr. Finlayson in his letter drew attention to the indiscriminate distribution of carbolic acid, and suggested that chemists only are qualified to dispense or distribute poisons. He said efforts of the legislature for the protection of the public are being nullified by the Council supplying carbolic acid to all who care to apply for it. There are cases on record of severe injury done to those who do not understand its uses, and who have inadvertently been burned by its being carelessly stored. In the course of a brief discussion the Town Clerk pointed out that the Corporation dispensed



their carbolic acid through the medium of the medical officer (Dr. Dingle), who of course was properly qualified. The Chairman (Councillor A. Mattison) said the sanitary inspector had informed him that carbolic acid was not supplied except to adults, and then in bottles labelled "Poison." Alderman Hinton said there was no evidence before them to show that the carbolic acid sold by the chemists was less liable to burn people than that which was obtained from the Corporation. The Town Clerk was finally instructed to write to the Secretary of the Chemists' Association and state that the committee did not see their way to take any action in the matter.

#### Not the "Cough-stuff"

An inquest was held at Hanley on March 12 on the body of Walter Stanley, aged two months. It appeared from the evidence that the child was given a teaspoonful of "cough-stuff," and died shortly afterwards. The doctor refused a death-certificate, as he was of opinion that it was the "cough-stuff" that had caused death. A chemical analysis of the cough-mixture was made, some half-dozen tests for morphine being tried with negative results. The doctor then came to the conclusion that death was due to improper feeding and bronchitis, and the Coroner's jury returned a verdict accordingly.

#### Contracts.

The following contracts have been settled:

Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co., 300 High Holborn, W.C., for drugs to the Hampstead Board of Guardians.

Messrs. C. J. Hewlett & Sons, Charlotte Street, E.C., for drugs to the Bethnal Green Board of Guardians.

Mr. Billington has been appointed by the Barnsley Town Council to supply drugs for the hospitals for the next half-year.

The Amersham Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. A. H. Haddon, chemist and druggist, for cod-liver oil.

Messrs. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C., for drugs to Mile End Board of Guardians (542*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*).

Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbridge & Co., Coleman Street, E.C., for drugs (at 28 per cent. discount off current price-list) to the Poplar Board of Guardians.

The Whitehaven Town Council have accepted the tender of the Sanitas Company for a year's supply of disinfectants, and that of Messrs. W. H. Wilcox & Co. for castor oil for the same period.

The Sheffield Board of Guardians at their meeting on Wednesday last accepted the tender of Messrs. Hearon, Squire & Francis to supply drugs and sundries required for the ensuing six months.

The Beckenham Urban Council have accepted the tender of Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds (Limited) for disinfectants, carbolic acid, and carbolic soap, and that of the Sanitas Company (Limited) for Sanitas.

The Dartford Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co. for the supply of drugs and druggists' sundries to the workhouse for the ensuing half-year, and that of Mr. W. J. Tucker, of Dartford, for disinfectants.

The Guardians of the Cannock Union have accepted the tenders of Mr. W. Haynes, Bridgtown, for toothcombs, 4*s.* per dozen; cotton-wool, 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb.; methylated spirit, 2*s.* 9*d.*; spirit of turpentine, 4*s.* 6*d.*; saltpetre, 3½*d.* per lb.; linseed meal, 2½*d.* per lb.; Mr. T. W. Garland, pharmaceutical chemist, Cannock, for dressing-combs, 5*s.* per dozen; Fullers' earth, 3½*d.* per box; Sanitas disinfectant, 1*s.* 6*d.*; tow, 5*d.*; and Mr. McIntyre, Cannock, for Condy's fluid, 11*s.* per dozen bottles; medicated lint, 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb.; Jeyes' fluid, 4*s.* 4½*d.*; Kilgerm, 4*s.* 4½*d.*

At the meeting of the Holborn Board of Guardians on Wednesday the Infirmary and Dispensary Visiting Committee brought up their annual report, in which it was stated that the drugs supplied were of excellent quality. The Chairman: Have the committee tasted all the drugs? Mr. Barri

No; but we have the declaration from the respective doctors. At the same meeting the Guardians accepted the offer of Messrs. Hugh Wallace & Co. (Limited) to purchase about 25 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia for 10*l.* 15*s.* net.

#### The Week's Poisonings.

Three of the fifteen deaths from poisoning that have taken place since our last report were misadventures. Six of the poisons used were unscheduled. Three cases of suicide by means of hydrochloric acid occurred—at New Brighton, where it was taken by a contractor named Hills; at Southend, where the victim was Mary Ann Johnson; and at Brighton, Thomas Woodham, a carpenter, being the suicide. Nitric acid was taken at Manchester by a Polish Jew named Frey. Lucy Winterton (18) poisoned herself at Manchester with liquid ammonia, and a liniment of ammonia and turpentine was inadvertently swallowed by Jonas Barran, of Bradford, a retired shipping agent, with fatal results. Laudanum in overdose was taken (in error) by Mary Palmer, of Wilton, by Thomas Batty, a Sowerby farmer, and by William Berrisford, of Hanley, Staffs. A Norwich widow, Martha Mary Church, poisoned herself with oxalic acid, and carbolic acid was taken by a young man at Durham named Thomas Charlton, and by Thomas Skemming, of Liverpool. An inquest was held at Hammersmith on March 12 by Mr. Oddie, Deputy-Coroner, on the body of Charles E. Guest (46), a bank clerk. Deceased had been depressed, and had delusions. He was found at Wormwood Scrubbs with a bottle simply labelled "Poison" in his pocket, with a half-sheet of an advertisement relating to the sale by a wholesale photographic firm of developers containing cyanide of potassium. Dr. H. W. Clarke said death was due to a preparation containing prussic acid. It had no doubt been obtained under the pretence that it was for use in photography. Suicide while insane.—Kenneth F. Hammersley (23), a student of engineering, had been staying with Dr. W. M. Paul, Kingston Hill, and was depressed through intemperance. While in that condition on Monday, March 7, he went into the doctor's consulting-room and took from a cabinet three 875 gr. corrosive-sublimate tablets [? solids], made a draught of them, and drank it. Dr. Paul applied the usual remedies, and had him removed to the infirmary, where he died on Saturday. Death was due to syncope from corrosive-sublimate poisoning, and the Coroner's jury returned a verdict accordingly.

## Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

#### Chemist's Action.

It is understood in Dublin that the action of Chemist *v.* Doctor (Johnston *v.* Abye Curran) has been settled in an amicable manner. The result is considered satisfactory, especially for the chemist.

#### Dublin Exhibition.

Several well-known pharmacists are members of the committee of organisation of the Dublin International Exhibition, 1906, amongst them being Mr. W. F. Wells and Sir Thomas Robinson.

#### Administering Corrosive Sublimate.

At the Waterford Assizes last week Mary McGrath was sent to penal servitude for three years for having administered corrosive sublimate to her father with intent to poison him. The accused bought the sublimate at a Youghal chemist's, stating that she wanted it to kill rats.

#### Good Drugs.

In a report of medicines analysed for the Sligo Guardians Sir Chas. A. Cameron reports the following as correct: Mist. sennæ co., vin. ipecac., lin. camph. co., spt. ammon. aromat., liq. bismuthi, oxy. scillæ, lin. belladonnæ, lin. terebinth., syr. ferri phosph. c. quininæ et strychninæ. Mr. Henry Boyers, chemist, Sligo, is the drug-contractor.



**Poisoning.**

The Belfast Deputy-Coroner last week held an inquest on the body of a hospital messenger who died from oxalic-acid poisoning. The Deputy-Coroner said that oxalic acid is a poison which can be bought freely at any chemist's or druggist's, as it was not on the schedule of poisons. He hoped the time would come when it would be necessary for those who sold it to make strict inquiry as to who was obtaining it.

**Contracts Settled.**

At the meeting of the Cookstown Guardians on Saturday, the tender of Mr. Ben Clarke for the supply of drugs, &c., was accepted, his tender quoting 32½ per cent. discount off the standard prices.

At the Birr Board of Guardians meeting on March 12, the tender for the supply of medicines received from Messrs. M. V. Goldon & Co., Birr, at 33½ per cent. off list price, was accepted. Messrs. Sumner & Co., Liverpool, were declared contractors for surgical appliances at 30 per cent. off list prices.

**Business Changes.**

Mr. W. H. Griffin, L.P.S.I., has opened a new pharmacy at Leeson Street Bridge, Dublin.

Messrs. Hunt & Co., of Westland Row, and Messrs. Leslie & Co., Bride Street, Dublin, both old-established wholesale druggists, have arranged that the latter shall be absorbed by the former, and business in future carried on at Bride Street. Three of Messrs. Hayes, Conynghan & Robinson's principal assistants are taking leading positions in the new company.

**Analyst's Quantities.**

At the last meeting of the Carrick-on-Shannon Guardians a letter was read from Dr. Doorley in regard to a statement by the analyst that he had not sent him 4-oz. samples of drugs for analysis. Dr. Doorley stated that he did not order as much as 4 oz. of some drugs, and in his opinion 4 oz. of such a drug as quinine sulphate, which costs 5s. 8d., or of cocaine hydrochloride, which costs 4l., is wasteful. In future he would, of course, send the full amount, though he failed to see why the analyst could not work with the lesser quantity. The report was accepted as satisfactory.

**Drug-contracts Open.**

Tenders for the supply of medicines and medical and surgical requisites are invited by the following bodies, the date given in each case being the latest on which tenders can be received: Belfast Union, March 22; c. Kildare Infirmary, March 21; Athy Union, March 23; Lisburn Union, March 22; Kinsale Union, March 23; Mallow Union, March 25; Ennis-corthy Union, March 24; Bawnboy Union, March 21; Manorchamilton Union, March 24; Fermoy Union, March 26; Millstreet Union, March 26; Middleton Union, March 26; Limerick Union, March 23; Roscrea Union, March 24; Magherafelt Union, March 24; Trim District School, March 21; Coolehill Union, March 25; Drogheda Union, March 24; Cavan Union, March 22; Bailieboro Union, March 21; Ardee Union, March 22; Cahirciveen Union, March 23; Tipperary Union, March 26; Clonakilty Union, March 25.

**Scotch News.**

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

**Business Change.**

Mr. Owen C. Dewar, chemist and druggist, has taken over the business lately carried on by Mr. Alex. Milne at Priory Place, Craigie, Perth.

**Edinburgh Chemists' Golf Club.**

The fixtures for 1904 include five competitions for the Gibson Handicap Medal (presented by Mr. Adam Gibson, F.C.S.). These take place at St. Andrews on the spring holiday, at the Braids on May 18, June 15, and September 17, and at some place not yet decided on the autumn

holiday. Besides, there is the competition for the "Connell Smith Putter" (presented by Mr. T. Connell Smith), played for annually in connection with the Hole-and-Hole competition. The first round of ties in this connection must be finished by April 9, and the sixth by June 25. The "Bogey" competition, for a medal presented by Mr. David Brown, F.R.S.E., will be played on Thursday, June 23. Copies of the rules, fixtures, &c., may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. James Stott, 45 Comely Bank Avenue, Edinburgh.

**Glasgow Notes.**

In consequence of Mr. T. Maben's removal to London early in April, it has been arranged that he shall read his paper on "Vaccines and Serums" before the local Association on March 31 instead of April 21.

A scrutiny of the faces of the local chemists amongst the mourners round Mr. McMillan's grave showed that there were few absentees from the group of survivors of the generation of the dead pharmacist's earlier contemporaries.

Mr. D. S. Robertson, chemist, Rutherglen and Glasgow who has taken a prominent part in the public affairs of Rutherglen for some years and is now a magistrate of the borough, is the subject of a cartoon in an evening paper. Travestying a remark made by him at a Council-meeting that he "was a bit of an artist," he is represented, palette in hand, striking a picturesque, studio-like attitude. The portrait of the face is a remarkably good likeness.

Perhaps the most winning side of the all-round engaging personality of the late Mr. Jas. Robb was the kindly and practical interest which he always took in the fortunes of his younger brethren in the craft. A man of exceptional knowledge, sound judgment, and skill in the practice of pharmacy, and of high ideals as to the aims and ultimate destiny of his profession, he was also remarkable for a breadth of culture, an abounding sociability, and a perennial youthfulness and ardour of temperament that brought him into sympathetic relations with his juniors, and gave him unique openings for wielding a salutary influence that was often an inspiration to righteousness. Of all his claims to remembrance this is the strongest and most enduring.

**French News.**

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

THE REVISION OF THE FRENCH CODEX is making good headway—in fact, it is understood that the preliminary work is virtually completed, and that the printers will shortly get the MS. Very extensive emendations appear to have been made, especially in the section devoted to galenicals.

THE CENTENARY PUBLICATION of the School of Pharmacy will contain some interesting illustrations. The set of large-size photos of the exterior and interior of the present School which figured in the galleries of the Ministry of Public Instruction at the International Exhibition of 1900 will be reproduced, as well as a large panoramic view of the old buildings in the rue de l'Arbalète.

DANVAL, the pharmacist convict who received a "free pardon" a couple of years ago, lodged a petition for the "revision" of his case. The revising committee last week voted *non*, that his demand was "receivable." The Keeper of the Seals will probably hand the "dossier" to the Court of Cassation in a few days' time. M. Charles Fabiani, Danval's barrister, drew up the petition.

AN ASSISTANT'S MADNESS.—Recently M. Felix Guillard, 1 rue de Luain, received a call from his late assistant, who asked for a testimonial. Whilst M. Guillard was writing out the document the assistant fired two shots at his late master, fortunately without fatal results. The young man was arrested, and it is suspected that he is a fitter inmate for a lunatic asylum than for an office or a gaol.

THE TWIN PROFESSIONS.—The students of medicine and pharmacy of the Paris University have been vigorously protesting against the abolition (provided for by Article 18 of the Law of Finances for 1901) of the age-limit for the compulsory retirement of professors. The "carabins" (medical



students) held a meeting and drew up a resolution that the age-limit should be reinstated. The pharmacy delegates present supported the motion.

**IN LIGHTER VEIN.—SERUMS FOR MORAL REFORM.**—Alphonse Allais began life behind a pharmacy-counter. But he soon deserted the pestle for the pen, and is now one of the most amusing of French humorous writers. In a recent contribution to the "Journal," entitled "Psychical Serum," he recounts, with his usual quiet drollery, the experiments of "Dr. Dastre." Fired by ambition on hearing of Metchnikoff's historical experiment on the late lamented Edwige, Dastre obtains a couple of chimpanzees and teaches them to play dominoes and cards, and to cheat if need be. He then inoculates with their serum a hardened (student) card-player. The effect is magical; the ex-gambler can no longer see a pack of cards without experiencing violent nausea. Thus will the *savant* reform and elevate the human race. At least, so Allais tells us, and promises "to keep us posted up in these interesting experiments."

**THE USES OF SPIRIT.**—A distinctive feature of the Paris Agricultural Exhibition, held in the Galerie des Machines on the Champ de Mars from February 29 to March 8, was a section specially devoted to *appareils fonctionnant à l'alcool* (apparatus pertaining to alcohol). Quite two score of exhibitors had their displays in this section, which was instructive as showing the developments made in France in the adaptation of methylated spirit as a power-giving and illuminating medium. Lamps burning the vapour of alcohol through an incandescent mantle were fairly numerous. They took the form chiefly of table-lamps, and they eclipsed in brilliancy any incandescent light burning ordinary coal-gas, even under the high-pressure system, we remember to have seen. One maker—E. Brinkman, 132 rue Faubourg St. Denis, Paris—showed a clever adaptation of the principle to the requirements of a magic lantern. To the eye the intensity of the light was not perceptibly less than given by the lime-light.

## Personalities.

DR. CHARLES FORSHAW, Bradford, has been appointed editor of "Yorkshire Notes and Queries."

MR. THEO. H. WARDLEWORTH, F.R.S., of Montreal, has just concluded a brief visit to this country and the Continent.

MR. T. H. W. IDRIS, as Mayor of St. Pancras, was introduced to the King by the Duke of Fife at the *levée* on Monday.

MR. JOHN TIMPSON and MR. CHARLES SHARLAND were passengers on this week's Norddeutscher Lloyd steamer to New York.

MR. F. J. BIRKETT, chemist and druggist, Workington, has been elected President of the Derwent Angling Association.

IN our report of the annual meeting of the West Ham Chemists' Association on February 10 we made Mr. Eastman Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, whereas Mr. F. Walter Gwinn continues the office he has so ably filled from the formation of the Association.

MR. A. L. POTTER has returned this week to Sydney, N.S.W., by way of New York, Canada, and San Francisco. Mr. Potter is to act as Australian agent for Messrs. Johnson & Johnson, Champion, Davis & Co. (Bristol), S. W. Wilkinson (Leicester), and the British Automatic Company.

WE stated in error last week that Mr. Stewart M. McLeish was a member of the firm of Messrs. Llewellyn & Co. (Limited), of Shanghai, instead of Messrs. Mactavish & Lehmann (Limited), and it is the latter business, and not Messrs. Llewellyn & Co. (Limited), which is charging hands consequent on Mr. McLeish's retirement.

THE Pharmaceutical Council contest is likely to be lively this year. All the old members are to be re-nominated, and, in addition to Mr. Sargeant for Leeds and Mr. Hagon for Wales, the following Londoners are to be nominated—viz., Messrs. Burton, Idris, Pentney, Pickering, Pond, Truman, and Willson. Strange that a Londoner could not be found for the recent vacancy!

## Canadian Notes.

MR. H. McDOWELL, manager of the wholesale drug-firm of Henderson Brothers, of Vancouver, has been elected President of the Vancouver Board of Trade. Mr. McDowell is a keen business man, and the Board's interests will no doubt be well looked after by the accession of this gentleman to the presidency.

**ADULTERATION OF FOOD AND DRUGS.**—The Montreal Board of Health at its meeting held on March 4 received a communication from the Municipal Reform Association containing a resolution on the question of food-adulteration requesting the committee to "take such action as will empower them to order that all foodstuffs, drinks, drugs, patent medicines, whether sold in bulk, package, parcel, bottle, box, can, or otherwise, shall be labelled as to their composition or contents, giving as fully as possible the amount of the various ingredients being sold, no matter under what names they are sold."

**FIRE AT NICKEL-MINES.**—A serious fire broke out in the works of the Canadian Copper Company, Copper Cliff, on February 19, doing damage to the extent of \$150,000. There was about \$100,000 of insurance on the building and work. No one was injured, but about a hundred men were temporarily thrown out of employment. The directors of the company met in Toronto afterwards to discuss the situation. Mr. A. P. Turner stated after the meeting that arrangements were practically completed so that the company could use the Mond smelter at Victoria mines until the works were rebuilt. By this arrangement all the men will be employed, as well as an additional staff of railwaymen, for conveying the matte to the Victoria mines. The new works will be greatly enlarged and improved, and will be made capable of turning out a very much larger quantity of nickel.

**ANTITOXIN AT COST.**—The Board of Health of the Province of Quebec at its last meeting passed the following resolution with reference to the price of diphtheria-antitoxin:

Whereas, the price of diphtheria-antitoxin and other serums has been advanced, as a result of a trust among American producers;

Whereas, diphtheria antitoxin and serums are specific remedies against infectious diseases, and that for diphtheria alone the mortality has decreased fully two-thirds since the use of antitoxin;

Whereas, the increase in price will result in restricting considerably the use of antitoxin and serums, and in many lives being sacrificed or at least endangered;

Resolved, that the Board endorses a suggestion recently made, that the Federal Government be respectfully invited to interfere and to use its influence with the British Government to secure the supply at cost-price to Canada of the diphtheria-antitoxin and other serums manufactured at their "Lister Institute" in England, which would mean a reduction of at least 50 per cent. in the actual cost of these specific and prophylactic remedies.

**SOCIALITY.**—The employés of Messrs. Evans & Sons (Limited), wholesale druggists, Montreal had their annual entertainment on March 1 in the form of a *chambre party*, dance, and supper. About forty employés and their friends availed themselves of this opportunity for social intercourse; but Mr. A. B. Evans, managing director of the firm, was, through illness in his family, unable to be present. The hockey-club in connection with the firm had charge of the entertainment, and its success was largely due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Frank Hatton, seconded by Mr. A. B. J. Moore, who was master of the ceremonies for the evening. Song, speech, and story interspersed the evening's fun, contributed principally by Messrs. A. B. J. Moore, A. W. Moffatt, J. A. Dyke, and E. Rogers, while a humorous sketch by Major John Rogers (until lately chief representative of the firm on the road) was hugely enjoyed, this gentleman bringing his well-known powers of mimicry into play. *Euchre* was the first item on the programme, several prizes being provided for those who showed greatest proficiency in the game. Supper was served at midnight, after which dancing was indulged in until about three o'clock, when the gathering broke up, well pleased with the evening's enjoyment.



## "Pharmaceutical Formulas."

VOLUME II. is going strong. It is a book which every chemist should get. Contains splendid formulas, sound advice, and good hints. It appeals directly to them, and is the best possible provision against the incidence of the stamped-medicine regulation which comes into force on March 31. The price of the book is 10s. net, by post 10s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and it may also be obtained at the published price from any of the following:

Allen & Hanburys (Limited), Bethnal Green, N.E.  
Ayrton, Saunders, & Kemp (Limited), Liverpool.  
Baiss Brothers & Stevenson (Limited), London.  
Barclay & Sons (Limited), 95 Farringdon Street, E.C.  
Bleasdale (Limited), York.  
Boileau & Boyd (Limited), Dublin.  
Duncan, Flockhart & Co., Edinburgh.  
W. Edwards & Son, 157 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
Evans, Gadd & Co. (Limited), Exeter.  
Evans Sons Lescher & Webb (Limited), Liverpool, and 60 Bartholomew Close, E.C.  
Fletcher, Fletcher & Co. (Limited), Holloway Road, N.  
Ford, Shapland & Co., 6 Great Turnstile, High Holborn, W.C.  
Glasgow Apothecaries' Company, Glasgow.  
John Gower, Waterloo, near Liverpool.  
Harkness, Beaumont & Co., Edinburgh.  
Hirst, Brooke & Hirst (Limited), Leeds.  
Hodgkinsons, Clarke & Ward, London.  
R. Hovenden & Sons (Limited), London.  
John Ismay & Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
J. R. Lockwood & Co., 168 St. John Street, E.C.  
Lynch & Co. (Limited), 192 Aldersgate Street, E.C.  
McKesson & Robbins, New York, U.S.A.  
S. Maw, Son & Sons, Aldersgate Street, E.C.  
May, Roberts & Co., Clerkenwell Road, E.C.  
F. Newbery & Sons, 27 Charterhouse Square, E.C.  
W. Paterson & Sons, Aberdeen.  
Pinkerton, Gibson & Co., Edinburgh.  
Potter & Clarke, 60 Artillery Lane, E.  
Raimes, Clark & Co., Edinburgh.  
Raimes & Co., York.  
J. Sanger & Sons, 2 Winsley Street, W.  
T. & H. Smith (Limited), 19 Duke Street, Edinburgh.  
Southall Brothers & Barclay (Limited), Birmingham.  
J. Woolley, Sons & Co. (Limited), Victoria Bridge, Manchester.  
Wilkinson & Simpson (Limited), Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
Wright, Layman & Umney (Limited), London.  
Wyleys (Limited), Coventry.

Following are further opinions in regard to the volume:

*From Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, Secretary of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association and of the Chemists' Defence Association (Limited), who was the means of securing the enforcement of Exemption 3.*

184 and 185 Temple Chambers,  
Temple Avenue, London, E.C.

February 23, 1904.

SIR,—I do not think anyone could have anticipated that one of the results of the recent Medicine-stamp Acts decisions would be to make possible such a collection of formulas as you have produced in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," Vol. II. The book will be a means of enabling the qualified chemist to avail himself to the full of the privilege of the third exemption. Not the least useful feature of the book, however, to my mind, is the valuable codification of the Medicine-stamp Acts. Such a codification was badly needed. The difficulties in deciding what constitutes a dutiable label are, from the chemist's point of view, insurmountable, unless he has such a work as yours at hand to assist him. I am sure I shall find it very useful.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. GLYN-JONES.

*From Mr. H. Wilson, F.I.C., F.C.S., a member of the Formulary Committee of the British Pharmaceutical Conference.*

146 High Street, Southampton.

February 21, 1904.

DEAR SIR,—I have perused "Pharmaceutical Formulas," Vol. II., with much interest and curiosity.

The compilation gives evidence of careful and systematic arrangement, and the formulae must of necessity be of immense value to members of the trade generally, in that the preparations made therefrom are "known, admitted, and approved" in the broadest and best sense of the term.

I have been particularly pleased with the very useful and concise *résumé* given of the Medicine-stamp Acts and the

appendices generally, while not the least valuable portion of the volume will be found in that section dealing with the formulae presented by the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary Committee, and the medicines in use in the principal hospitals of the Australian Commonwealth.

H. WILSON.

## Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

### NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

A MEETING was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on Wednesday evening, March 16. Mr. Dott was in the chair, and there was a very large attendance of members and their friends, the occasion being a lecture by Mr. THOMAS STEPHENSON, Ph.C., F.C.S., on

### RADIUM AND RADIO-ACTIVITY.

This comprised a general sketch of the history of radio-activity, commencing with Crooke's discovery of the cathode-rays and radiant matter, from this leading on to Röntgen's discovery of the  $x$ -rays in 1895, and to Becquerel's announcement a year later of the emission of similar rays by uranium salts. The difference between phosphorescence and radio-activity was pointed out, the luminosity of zinc sulphide and phosphorus, due to absorption of light and chemical action respectively, being given as examples. Uranium nitrate was shown to glow in the dark in the same way, but while zinc sulphide and phosphorus have no action on a photographic plate through black paper, uranium salts has such action, as they emit penetrating rays, which the other substances do not. Uranium was the first recorded instance of "radio-activity." The work of Madame Curie was then explained, and a beautiful photograph of an incandescent mantle, taken by means of the radio-active thorium contained in it, was shown. Madame Curie's apparatus for measuring radio-activity was described, and the discovery that pitchblende is four times more radio-active than metallic uranium was taken as the starting-point of the discovery of radium. The relation of atomic weight to radio-activity was pointed out, a table showing the atomic weights of all the radio-active elements being thrown on the screen.

The sources, properties, and general characteristics of the radium salts were next described, with illustrations. The physiological action of the salts is—(1) Action on skin, a burn; (2) action on nervous system, paralysis; (3) Action on bacteria, destructive; and (4) Action on the eye, luminous. The use of radium and thorium emanations in tuberculosis was fully described, and the apparatus shown.

The lecture was profusely illustrated by experiments, specimens, and lantern-slides, much of the material being lent by Mr. F. W. Branson, F.I.C., F.C.S., Leeds. Amongst the apparatus shown was a very pretty vacuum-tube, the coils of which were surrounded by quinine solution that became beautifully fluorescent when the current from an induction-coil was passed through. The lecturer was heartily thanked for his paper.

## Recent Wills.

FAWTHORP.—The estate of the late Mr. James Fawthorp, chemist and druggist, of Crossgates, near Leeds, formerly representative of Messrs. Hirst, Brooke & Hirst (Limited), of Leeds, has been proved at 2 424 $\frac{1}{2}$  gross.

HOLSTEAD.—Mr. Thomas Holstead, chemist and druggist, of 11 Venice Street, Daubhill, Bolton, has left estate valued at 1,143 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

HOWARTH.—The estate of the late Mr. John Thomas Howarth, manufacturing chemist, of Huddersfield, has been proved at 3,221 $\frac{1}{2}$  3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  gross.

WHEATLEY.—The will of the late Mr. Chas. Wheatley, of the firm of Wheatley & Sons, chemists and druggists, Huddersfield, who died on December 30, has been proved at 63 082 $\frac{1}{2}$  gross.



## Winter Session.

### Edinburgh Chemists' Trade Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at 36 York Place, on March 10, Mr. W. S. Glass presiding.

#### THE PHARMACY BILL.

Mr. G. H. C. ROWLAND (Hon. Secretary) read the letter on this subject which he had received from Mr. Watson-Will (Hon. Secretary of the Federation of Local Associations).

The matter was remitted to a committee, with powers to take whatever action might be thought necessary to secure the passing of the Bill. The meeting expressed gratification that Mr. George McCrae, M.P. for East Edinburgh, and Mr. Munro Ferguson, M.P. for Leith Burghs, had been obtained as backers of the Bill, although Mr. Munro Ferguson's name has been unfortunately omitted in printing the Bill for the House of Commons.

#### COMBINED BUYING.

The CHAIRMAN said that in an unguarded moment he had consented to introduce a discussion on combined buying. The subject was one which had been engaging the attention of chemists throughout the country for some time, and while they could not be regarded as an aggressive body, they welcomed discussion on any subject that would unite and benefit them. On considering the subject, however, he found that it was a very big one. They were, he thought, well served by the wholesale houses, but, on the other hand, they had to meet keen competition, and that compelled them to consider every means for getting the best terms. Many of them, doubtless, had been in the habit of buying certain articles direct from the manufacturers. He believed the wholesale houses would not object to them buying certain articles in that way, but he was not prepared to advise the Association as such to go in for joint buying. He had ascertained that, by combining to buy certain proprietary articles, they might effect a saving of 5 per cent., but there the P.A.T.A. would step in and prevent any articles on their list from being treated in that way, and they would be limited to articles which were not on the list. There was, however, another way in which they might help one another. They had frequently discussed their relationship to medical men, but he did not think they had fully realised their interests in that connection. As an Association they might assist in checking the grievance of medical men prescribing proprietary or branded goods. They had had plenty of evidence of ability to criticise when any discussion on formulæ took place at their meetings, but they did not get the full benefit of that ability. He suggested the appointment of a committee to devise formulæ for new drugs which could be submitted as suggestions to medical practitioners, who would prescribe them rather than the proprietary or branded goods, and if they succeeded it would be a great boon to all their members.

Mr. C. F. HENRY said this question bristled with difficulties. He had been asked when he was Secretary to look into the matter, but he at once saw that the P.A.T.A. would object to articles on their list being treated in that way. But they need not mind that, because they already had a profit on these articles. There were other articles which they stocked merely to oblige regular customers, in regard to which they might move. In estimating their profit they had to consider not only the difference between the purchase-price and the price they sold at, but the difference between the purchase-price, plus rent, taxes, and working-expenses and the selling-price. On that basis they handled many of these articles at a loss. Something might be done with regard to Angier's emulsion, Californian syrup of figs, Mellin's food, Beecham's pills, Edward's Lardene, Odol, Scott's emulsion, and Benger's food.

Mr. MCCUTCHEON, speaking from his experience in buying patent medicines and also in a wholesale house, said they might get slightly better prices by buying large stocks, but between stock left on their hands and interest on money all the profit would be gone. They would do as well if they bought in quarter-dozen lots at a little higher price. As to the idea of the Association trading in making special

preparations, that was a matter of capital and advertising. The large makers would sweep them out of the field.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that his suggestion was not to go into a commercial concern by making preparations, but to devise formulæ for such things as, say, chloretone, and bring them under the notice of the medical profession.

Mr. FORRET was of the same mind as Mr. McCutcheon. The outlay of money would mean loss of interest. He would also like to know how the lots were to be distributed.

Mr. MANSON said the scheme would be of no advantage to country members. The remittance of the money would also involve expense.

Mr. R. L. HENDRY said they had to consider the wholesale houses who very readily obliged them, and they would still be compelled to stock these articles to meet the requirements of country customers.

The SECRETARY said there were two distinct questions before them—namely, the question of combined buying, and the appointment of a committee to devise formulæ for medical practitioners. He suggested that they should dispose of the two questions separately, and moved that, having regard to the smallness of the saving to be effected by combined buying, the matter be allowed to drop.

Mr. FORRET seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The CHAIRMAN moved that it be remitted to the committee to consider the advisability of devising suitable formulæ for the use of medical men and report, and the motion was agreed to.

#### LIABILITY TO STAMP-DUTY.

Mr. C. F. HENRY said he had made a further endeavour to clear up some points with regard to liability to duty upon labels for some well-known pills. He had forwarded three labels to Somerset House worded "Aperient pills, as prescribed by the late Dr. Hamilton, 1 or 2 a dose"; "Liver pills, as prescribed by the late Dr. Begbie, 1 or 2 a dose"; and "Liver pills, composed of aloes and mastic, as prescribed by the late Dr. Thomson, 1 or 2 a dose"; and the reply was "Not liable to duty, in so far as liability is dependent on the terms of the label in each case." He had also sent the following label "Antibilious pills, composed of colocynth, aloes, and scammony, as prescribed by the late Professor Gregory"; and the reply received was "The preparation to which it relates is liable to medicine-stamp duty unless it falls within the scope of the exemptions in favour of known, admitted, and approved remedies, and on this point the Board must decline to advise." He then sent a further set worded "Dr. Hamilton's pills, composed of extracts of colocynth and henbane, 1 or 2 for a dose"; "Dr. Thomson's antibilious pills, composed of aloes and mastic, 1 or 2 for a dose"; and "Professor Christison's pills, composed of colocynth, aloes, and scammony, 1, 2, or 3 for a dose." All these labels had been returned marked "Liable to duty." One result of his investigation was that they found they could have a label for "The mixture, as prescribed by the late Dr. Begbie," and while they could not say "Christison's cough-mixture," they could have a label "Bronchial mixture, as prescribed by the late Dr. Christison."

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

On the motion of Mr. McLAREN it was agreed to continue the subscription of 2l. 2s. to the Benevolent Fund and 1l. 1s. to the Orphan Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society.

It was agreed that the Association have no excursion this year.

The following new members were elected: Messrs. D. Campbell, J. Dudgeon, W. Henderson, A. C. Kirkpatrick, J. Noble, W. Ogilvie, J. L. Reid, W. T. Robson, J. Skinnar, and C. Stewart.

### North Staffs Chemists' Association.

A VERY largely attended meeting of this Association was held on March 10 at the Roebuck Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, Mr. J. Averill, J.P. (President, Stafford), in the chair.

After the reading of the minutes the PRESIDENT called on Mr. F. B. Blades (Leek) to read a paper on

#### THE MEDICINE-STAMP REGULATIONS.

Mr. BLADES, who was warmly received, submitted the results of his reading of the latest pronouncements by



the Board of Inland Revenue, giving it as his opinion that the best way for a chemist to meet the present conditions is to print on the label the names of all the active ingredients of the medicine.

Mr. EDMUND JONES (Hon. Secretary) opened the discussion, and said with regard to the latest concession, it had occurred to him that the reason that had led the Board to the decision they had come to had been this: In the cases that were tried last year, when this new reading of the old Acts came out, it was found that the Stamp Acts existed long before the Pharmacy Acts. Having that in view, the authorities at Somerset House could not consider the 1852 and 1863 Pharmacy Acts when dealing with this exemption. It seemed to him that they ignored the Pharmacy Acts entirely, and formed their opinions and came to their decision on the Act as it stood in 1812. This latest decision had come as a thunderbolt. He would like to know how many of the actual proprietors of drug-stores throughout the country and the directors of these companies were the responsible managers, and how many years apprenticeship the bulk of them had served. It would be a very interesting table, if it could be collected, to find out what proportion of them could claim exemption even under this latest concession. He thought that if the Pharmaceutical Society were to investigate it and collect information, the Somerset House decision would perhaps be modified, if not altered, in favour of the properly qualified chemist and druggist.

Mr. WESTON POOLE (Treasurer) thought chemists were sometimes inclined to bring up almost impossible cases for the decision of the Inland Revenue authorities. The chemists of the country keep on trying to find loopholes. He thought they had better take the general principle and make up their minds that if they want to run any ailment remedy, and run it secretly, they had better stamp it. (Applause).

Mr. T. C. CORNWELL (Vice-President) thought this latest decision of the Inland Revenue would have to be fought out to the bitter end. Four times in the history of the Inland Revenue the chemists had had test-cases; twice they had won, and twice lost. If ever there was an occasion for the Pharmaceutical Society to endeavour to upset a decision, he thought this was the one. He urged every member to join the C.D.A.

Mr. W. MARSON (Stafford) said it had often occurred to him that if the Inland Revenue could have been induced to change the value of the stamp it would have been an easy way out of the difficulty;  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  on the 1s. was the duty at present. If they would, for instance, put a  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  stamp on a  $4d.$  article, and so on, the Government would get just as much money and the chemists would be much more satisfied. Chemists are the only tradesmen in the British Empire who are taxed for using the King's English. The present amount of duty,  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  on a  $6d.$  article, is, he thought, too much.

Mr. BLADES, in reply, said it seemed that chemists did not know the law, nor did the Inland Revenue. (Laughter.) They would have to wait until a test-case had been fought out, but the question is who is going to bear the cost of a test-case?

The PRESIDENT: The C.D.A.

Mr. BLADES (continuing) said the individual chemist certainly cannot afford it. The chemist is one of the most harassed traders in existence.

#### THE PHARMACY BILL.

The PRESIDENT next referred to the draft Pharmacy Bill, and the members agreed to send a letter to their M.P.s, Messrs. T. C. Cornwell, Weston Poole, Edmund Jones, and F. Adams being appointed to draft the letter.

The annual dinner was fixed to be held at the Grand Hotel, Hanley, on April 7, and a committee was appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements.

#### Reading Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of the above Association was held at Table Dainties Restaurant on Thursday, March 10, the President (Mr. E. Cardwell) in the chair. The SECRETARY read the correspondence with those firms who are being approached on the P.A.T.A. question, and who had not replied at the time of the last meeting. Although some of them had the matter under consideration, no conclusive result could be

reported, and it was decided to fix a time-limit for a definite answer, after which other measures would be taken.

Sir Charles Dilke's Shops Bill was then read by the PRESIDENT, and discussed, the general opinion being that it was too complicated a measure to stand much chance of becoming law.

The Pharmacy Bill was also laid before the meeting, and it was resolved to approach the local M.P.s on the lines suggested in Mr. Watson-Will's letter.

#### Midland Pharmaceutical Association.

It was the largest gathering for some years that assembled at Birmingham University on March 10 to listen to Mr. T. MABEN's lecture on "The Preparation of Serums and Vaccines." Mr. A. W. Gerrard (the President) was in the chair, and representatives were present from the leading houses in Birmingham, Coventry, and elsewhere. At the close of his lecture, a summary of which has already appeared in the *C. & D.*, Mr. Maben was thanked, on the proposition of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. G. E. PERRY.

#### Chemists' Assistants' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at 73 Newman Street, W., on March 10, the President (Mr. A. B. Britton) in the chair. Mr. W. NEALE ELLIS read a paper on

##### THE MICROSCOPE AS A HOBBY.

Mr. Ellis described at some length the scientific and mechanical principles embodied in the microscope of to-day, in which the mathematician, the scientist, and the skilled workman have united to produce an instrument which, to say the least, is a credit to human ingenuity. The microscope is peculiarly a chemist's hobby for two reasons: first, the chemist in the course of his studies has a good deal to learn by the aid of the microscope, and as a rule he finds it necessary to procure one; secondly, argued Mr. Ellis, having qualified, and taken a position as an assistant, he has (his hours on duty being long) a good deal of time on his hands which is not entirely taken up by his work. Ready prepared and mounted objects are useful in their way, but there is no real satisfaction in examining over and over again a collection of microscope-slides. The thrill involuntarily felt when observing living protoplasm, whether in active motion or otherwise, is missed. It is necessary to know the capabilities of the instrument, and how to present structures and objects that their characteristics may readily and properly be observed. Perseverance must be backed up by the naturalist part of a man's ego. To the man cooped up in the town there is practically no limit to the variety of living forms which may be found in a few ounces of pond-water. Algæ, bacteria, infusoria, molluscs, and crustaceans are all there in different stages of development and change. At the present time, continued Mr. Ellis, he has at home 3 oz. of pond-water, procured for him by a friend over six months ago, which has yielded sufficient material to fill a large exercise-book with sketches and notes, and shows no sign of exhaustion yet. Quite recently he was startled to see several baby water-snails adhering to the sides of the bottle. These infant molluscs certainly had given no evidence of their existence before, and he concluded they were the progeny of the large individual which, for the sake of the algæ, he found it necessary to remove soon after the water came into his possession.

Mr. Ellis concluded with a brief description of the polariscope.

A short discussion followed, during which the commercial value to the chemist of the study of bacteriology was emphasised.

#### Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on March 9, Mr. Archibald Currie (President) in the chair.

The first paper was one by Mr. W. S. GLASS on

##### PILL-COATING,

in which experiments were detailed as to the solubility of varnished and coated pills which Mr. Glass said proved that



there is yet something required in the way of providing a pill that will be elegant, soluble, and can be coated without much extra time or trouble. For this purpose a reference in the "Year-book of Pharmacy" for 1892\* was found recommending plumbago as a serviceable substance for coating pills, being inert, not liable to change, not hygroscopic, and possessing in a high degree the property of imparting to pills a very brilliant polish. Samples were submitted of 2-gr. aperient pills and 5-gr. colocynth pills. Plumbago can be employed for newly prepared pills, and on that account is useful at the dispensing-counter. The other coatings cannot be used so conveniently. The solubility of the pill when finished and highlyurnished is also a recommendation. Albumen is also used as a coating, but there are difficulties in the way of obtaining it fresh. Silver-leaf is a very serviceable and elegant covering for prescription-pills. Salol as a coating has been suggested, but is inadmissible for most purposes. Varnish has certain recommendations. Graphite, or plumbago, might be given a fair trial. It possesses most of the virtues of the other pill-coating materials, and has other peculiar properties of its own to recommend it. It can be applied by rolling the pills with the pill-roller, dusting on sufficient of the graphite in powder until a brilliant polish is obtained.

Mr. HILL said he had experimented with plumbago as a pill-coating more than twenty years ago, the idea being suggested by Blanchard's pills, which are coated with plumbago and then varnished. It is very doubtful if coating pills is a real advantage. He heard of a case in which even a freshly applied gelatin coating was objected to on the ground that it distinctly interfered with the action of the pills. Another disadvantage is that the practice of pill-coating has thrown the manufacture of pills into the hands of large makers to the detriment of true pharmacy. This arises from an entirely mistaken belief on the part of retail pharmacists that they cannot turn out pearl-coated pills equal to the factory-made article. He had seen first or second year apprentices turn out coated pills quite equal to anything produced on a large scale.

Mr. BOA said he had experimented with graphite fifteen or sixteen years ago, but he did not find that people took kindly to the appearance. The pills were rather suggestive of small shot. His experience was that if a well-made pill was supplied the public did not care particularly for any coating, and he did not find much demand for them. Recently a customer expressed his preference for pills without "that glazy stuff" on them. He (Mr. Boa) agreed with what was said in deprecation of the tendency to put the making of galenicals into the hands of wholesale makers. It is unfair to take an apprentice on the pretence of teaching him his business as a pharmacist, and then make him a mere distributor of manufactured articles. Some pharmacists are in the habit of coating all prescription-pills, but his opinion was that unless the prescriber ordered it the pills should not be coated.

Mr. McEWAN said all prescription-pills should be sent out uncoated unless otherwise required. His practice was to dispense them with the smallest modicum of dusting-powder that would prevent them adhering to one another. Graphite makes the pills too much like shot, and would not be suitable for white pills. He could confirm the statement that apprentices are quite competent to turn out perfectly finished coated pills. It is an art that can be acquired by practice.

The CHAIRMAN said he had suggested graphite as a pill-coating in a paper read to the Association two or three years ago. He had kept to it ever since and had never had any complaint. He found 2 gr. of graphite sufficient to coat twenty-four pills. He made some Bland's pills at that time and coated them with graphite, and on examining them on March 8 found them as good as when freshly made.

The next communication was a talk

#### CONCERNING FORMULÆ.

By Peter Boa, Ph.C.

The comments were due to recently-published collections consequent on stamped-medicine difficulties. With regard

\* It is but fair to mention that the reference in the "Y.B.P." is to a paper by Mr. Harold Wyatt, jun., published in the *C. & D.*, October 24, 1891.—ED.

to specialities, Mr. Boa thought if any pharmacist wished to run one he ought to produce it for himself. A chemist should not merely copy his neighbour, nor did he (the speaker) think he would give away what he had devised to his neighbour. A formula should be based on the simplest way of carrying out a definite idea. Mr. Boa added that he did not think it the legitimate province of the pharmacist to run specialities for the cure of diseases. That is trespassing on the sphere of the medical practitioner. Within certain limits there is ample scope for pharmaceutical skill. There are many toilet and dental articles, for example, which chemists might make up. In the making of creams it is wise to keep working away at the possibilities of such articles as tragacanth, Irish moss, quince-seed, gelatin, agar-agar, and linseed. It is wonderful what a fine cream can be made from the somewhat neglected linseed. This kind of work brought chemists into relationship with medical men in a truly professional way. Recently, for example, a practitioner ordered an ointment of zinc oxide, boric acid, and lanolin, which had the defect that it could not without difficulty be wiped off the tender surface to which it was applied. A bismuth salt was suggested for the zinc, with perfect success so far as wiping off was concerned. There was still some complaint of grittiness, and it was suggested to add the boric acid in solution with perfect success. The result is that that prescriber now very frequently orders the improved ointment.

Mr. DONALD McEWAN recalled an incident related by Sir William Gairdner, who came across a mixture in Lanarkshire which had been found to be a specific for asthma. It consisted of a large number of ingredients, including potassium iodide. Sir William set himself to discover the real active constituent, and eventually traced the whole beneficial effects of the mixture to the potassium iodide.

Mr. E. O. ROWLAND said quillaia has a large sphere of usefulness as an emulsifying-agent.

Mr. GLASS said he did not quite agree with Mr. Boa's view as to giving medicinal remedies to persons who came to them. Chemists should discourage quackery, but could employ their skill in supplying many things, such as cough-mixtures.

The CHAIRMAN also spoke on similar lines, and Mr. BOA briefly replied.

#### Western Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the Norfolk Square Hotel, London Street, Paddington, on March 16, the President (Mr. J. W. Bowen) in the chair. About a dozen members and friends were present, and the PRESIDENT opened the proceedings by making a few tentative remarks on the proposed

#### C.O.D. SYSTEM.

These proposals, he said, had been generally condemned by chemists all over the country. At a meeting of the Thames Valley Chemists' Association (see *C. & D.*, March 12, page 424) a lengthy resolution was passed, it being agreed that more weight would be given to any protest sent to the Postmaster-General if it were made on the grounds of public policy rather than in the interests of any particular class of traders. With that opinion he (the President) quite agreed. On the Continent they were guarded by more strict laws, and the working of the system there would not affect the pharmacists so unduly; but in this country there was nothing to prevent the most undesirable specifics being rammed down the throats of the public by bold advertisement. This has been hitherto negated in some degree by the refusal of educated pharmacists to stock and recommend such remedies. But if the C.O.D. system he adopted there will be nothing to prevent the wholesale dealer in these articles selling preparations containing scheduled poisons and making the postman who receives the money the seller, thus breaking the Pharmacy Act. Any system, therefore, that tends to remove the restrictions concerning the sale of poisons should be condemned. He understood that at least one member of the Pharmaceutical Council had the matter in hand, and probably the Pharmaceutical Council would approach the Postmaster-General on the subject. Another point with regard to the working of the system struck him. If a prescription were dispensed and



forwarded by post, and the consignee for some reason or other refused to receive the goods, he presumed the Post Office would insist on the consignee paying the return postage. He considered the system would tend to sweep away small businesses in small towns, and would increase the prosperity of large firms desiring to do both a wholesale and a retail trade.

Mr. J. F. HARRINGTON did not favour the system. Looked at from the points of view of either receiver or sender of goods, he could see no advantage to himself from the adoption of the system, and if accepted it would, in his opinion, lead to many abuses.

Mr. W. F. GULLIVER said in his continental experience he had found it very convenient, but in this country, he thought, there would be greater difficulties in the path to its success. So many specifics were prohibited on the Continent that the abuses spoken of by the President would not be so prevalent there as in this country. In his opinion the system would be of no advantage except to the man with a large business in proprietaries.

Mr. J. H. MATHER (Godalming), speaking as a country chemist, said the man living outside the metropolis would suffer materially, as far as he could see, from the adoption of the system. He was of opinion that from the economic aspect of the question alone the system deserved condemnation. It would probably not affect the small chemist even so much as other trades such as drapers.

Mr. B. MIDDLETON said the system would make little difference to him personally, but he thought the point made by the President of the postman breaking the Pharmacy Act was novel. If that were so, he considered chemists had all, more or less, helped to make the postman a law-breaker.

The PRESIDENT explained that what he said was that the postman, by handing over the poison and receiving the money, would be breaking the law. [The Worcester case decided to the contrary.—ED., C. & D.]

Mr. MIDDLETON agreed that that put a different aspect on the case, and reiterated his opinion that the adoption or non-adoption of the system would not matter either way.

Mr. G. J. KNIGHT said the Thames Valley resolution was more fitted for the times of barber-surgeons. In connection with new legislation there were always these bugbears, and always people imagining that they would do an enormous amount of harm. For his part, he could see no harm in the adoption of the C.O.D. system, especially to those in business in the metropolis or in large towns. The same system was already in vogue in connection with the carrying companies of the metropolis, and he thought it a step in the right direction. It would be for the good of the general community, and he saw no reason to have stultified a system that would benefit the community at large because of the disadvantage it would be to a small minority of traders. There was no new legislation introduced that did not hurt some one, and if poisons were distributed in a legitimate manner by postmen it would be better than the haphazard way in which they are distributed by some chemists.

Mr. R. A. ROBINSON, Jun., did not think the Government would pay much attention to a resolution sent by the Western Chemists' Association condemning the system in its general economic aspect. If any resolution were adopted, he suggested that it should be setting forth the effect the system would have upon the trade of the chemists of the west of London.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. W. J. I. Philp) thought the country wanted the system, and if it was to be for the public convenience he was in favour of it. He did not think its adoption would make any difference to chemists.

Mr. MATHER reiterated his opinion that the small trader was worthy of consideration. He was a citizen, took his share in public work, and paid rates. If his enterprise was to be materially crippled—as probably it would be by this system—it would be a serious matter for him and for the town in which he lived. He (Mr. Mather) was unable to see that any great advantage to the general community would accrue by the adoption of the system, but he could see that great hardships would result to small traders, and legislation, in his opinion, should be of such a character that the efficiency of the small trader should not be lessened.

The PRESIDENT, closing the discussion, remarked that apparently the meeting was of opinion that no resolution on the subject was necessary.

## SHOPS BILL.

The PRESIDENT then referred shortly to the Shops Bill introduced by Sir Charles Dilke, an epitome of which appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of February 20 (page 312). He thought the spirit in which the Bill was conceived was quite at variance with the principle of personal liberty. In his opinion, adults should be allowed to work as long as they liked. The chief objection, as far as chemists were concerned, was to Clause 10, which dealt with the number of hours (not more than sixty, including meal hours) in which "persons are to be employed" in shops. There were other absurdities which could not be made applicable to a chemist's business.

Mr. HARRINGTON thought the Bill was quite unacceptable to chemists. If, however, a Bill were introduced to reduce shop-hours, he thought it ought to be seriously considered. Chemists' hours were much too long, and they could easily be shortened.

A desultory discussion followed, all the speakers ridiculing the Bill, and the matter dropped.

## PHARMACY BILL.

Mr. HARRINGTON, on the invitation of the PRESIDENT, made a few comments on the proposed Pharmacy Bill. Members of Parliament were, he said, beginning to see more clearly the reason for the Bill, and there was therefore more hope of its ultimate success. After referring to the new clause, he went on to say that some people thought Clause 7 ought to be done away with. He (the speaker) could not help thinking that if Clause 7 were struck out there would be no more chance of the Bill passing than if it remained, and chemists would be better off, or at least quite as well off, without the Bill at all. He did not quite understand the answer given by Mr. Balfour in reply to the question by Mr. O'Malley, M.P. (C. & D., March 12, page 417). If the Government were preparing another Bill it was a serious statement; but he hardly thought the Government would try to introduce another measure without consulting the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. Harrington having been thanked for his remarks, the business of the meeting terminated.

## Dover Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the residence of the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Ewell), Townwall Street, on Friday, March 11, Mr. J. F. Brown in the chair. Amongst other matters discussed was an interesting case of pre-umable ptomaine poisoning from rabbit-pie, and its curiously varying effects on different people. A case was mentioned of the length of time coins may remain in the alimentary canal. Sir Charles Dilke's Shop Hour Bill was discussed, and it was decided to follow the lead of the Federation in opposing the measure. Mr. Barnes was commissioned to keep the Secretary for Ireland fully informed of the Pharmacy Bill.

It was decided to keep the retail price of camphor at 4s. per oz. as long as possible, also to drop the price of cod-liver oil.

## Preston Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Moor Park Pharmacy on Tuesday evening, March 15, when the SECRETARY (Mr. F. A. Williamson) mentioned the Pharmacy Bill, and was instructed to write to the borough members for their support and also to invite all registered chemists in the district to send similar communications asking their parliamentary representatives to support the Bill.

Correspondence from the Secretaries of the P.A.T.A. and the Federation was also submitted. The question of joining the latter was deferred, and it was considered as to the Shops Bill that the exemption clause gets rid of any objections by chemists.

The question of forming a local traders' defence association was adjourned.

## Brighton Association of Pharmacy.

A MEETING was held on Thursday, March 10, at No. 58 King's Road, at 9 P.M., to consider the action of the local mineral-



water "combine," which has recently sent out notices that on and from March 1 all syphons will be charged a deposit of 6*d.* each, and bottles 3*d.* per doz., and that all syphons on hand on that date should be charged 2*s.* 6*d.* each and 5 per cent. per annum charged on the value until either returned or paid for. The meeting unanimously and strongly disagreed with the proposals, and thought that a small extra charge on the waters—say 3*d.* per doz.—ought to be sufficient to cover loss of syphons, and that no further responsibility should attach to the retailer.

### Cardiff Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING was held at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on Wednesday, March 16, Mr. D. Anthony in the chair. The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. R. Mumford) reported that he had sent circulars to twenty-one divisional secretaries in Wales *re* the nomination of a

#### WELSH CANDIDATE FOR THE PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL.

He gave the gist of the replies, nineteen being favourable. He added that immediately he received the replies he laid them before his committee, who thought they should go on with the matter, and recommended the nomination of Mr. A. Hagon, who had since intimated that he placed himself entirely in their hands, either to stand as a candidate himself or to step aside and give his most active support to any other gentleman who might be nominated.

In the course of a discussion which followed, Mr. A. COLEMAN asked if any communication had been received from Swansea, and the SECRETARY said he had a letter from Mr. N. M. Grose, formerly a member of the Council, who wrote:

Why are the members of the Cardiff and District Pharmaceutical Association so anxious to get a Welshman or an inhabitant of Wales on the Pharmaceutical Council? Is it because of the number of members of the Society in Wales? I am certain that the members of the Council represent the interests of the chemists and druggists of Penzance, John O'Groats, and of Tenby as much as they do those of their own immediate neighbourhood. I think our interests are as much safeguarded now as they would be if we had a representative from each town of any size in the land.

The Secretary added that Mr. Grose's own position was the best comment they could make on that letter.

Mr. HOPKINS (Barry) expressed his cordial approval of the nomination of Mr. Hagon, and Mr. Jabez A. Jones formally proposed that the Hon. Secretary be authorised to nominate Mr. Hagon. This was seconded by Mr. HOPKINS and unanimously carried, and preliminaries for a canvass were arranged.

The new Pharmacy Bill was briefly alluded to, and the members generally urged to write to the parliamentary representatives of Cardiff and South Glamorgan soliciting their vote in favour of the Bill.

### Blackpool Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Palatine Hotel on Friday, March 11, Mr. Councillor Laurie presiding, when Mr. TURNER read a paper on the

#### RELATION BETWEEN PHARMACY AND MEDICINE.

After referring to the general culture of medical practitioners and the present-day direction of their professional trading, the author showed that their deficiency in pharmaceutical knowledge is due to inadequate attention to pharmacy in the medical curriculum. This condition favours the prescribing of proprietary preparations which seem to fit the case, but Mr. Turner thought it is much better to dispense proprietary articles than do no dispensing at all. He then dealt with the personal relations between physicians and pharmacists, deprecating monetary arrangements and very strongly condemning any interference by the pharmacist between the doctor and the patient. He warned chemists against the dangers of counter-prescribing, and made the following suggestion for starting a better state of things in the Blackpool district:

We might either invite one or two fresh men to the town, or make some such offer to the most likely man or men we already have, as the following: that certain undersigned chemists agree to abandon prescribing and use all their influence to send as many

patients as possible to their doctors, promising that only in such cases as, say, toothache or corns, or some such trifling ailment, will they prescribe; the doctors on their side agreeing to allow their patients absolute free trade in choosing their chemists, and in declining dispensing excepting for urgent cases and very poor patients. Or an arrangement might be entered into by which very poor patients might have medicines dispensed at a special low rate, the prescription being in such a case specially marked.

A discussion followed (the CHAIRMAN, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KEELEY, Mr. SANKEY, Mr. JACKSON, and ASHTON joining in it), but no definite resolution was come to.

### Hartlepool Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Grand Hotel, West Hartlepool, on Thursday, March 10. Alderman Thos. Clarkson presided, and there were present Messrs. Barker, Ferry, Hill, Levie, Leithead, Watt, Whitehead, Timmins (Hon. Secretary), West Hartlepool; and Messrs. Buckle and Denton, Hartlepool.

The correspondence submitted included letters from the Federation of Local Associations, the Reading Chemists' Association, and the P.A.T.A.; Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones also wrote agreeing to address the members on Wednesday, April 20.

#### PHARMACY BILL.

The SECRETARY read communications about this Bill, and the CHAIRMAN opened a discussion on it, which was taken part in by Messrs. LEITHEAD, WATT, HILL, and other members, and at the conclusion the following resolution was unanimously passed:

That this meeting of the Hartlepool and District Chemists' Association having carefully considered the Pharmacy Bill, cordially approves of same, and trusts every member will do his utmost to expedite the passing of the Bill.

The Secretary was asked to write to the local members of Parliament, asking them to support the Bill and to receive a deputation from the Association.

#### DILKE'S SHOPS BILL

was also down for discussion, and it was considered of such importance that it was held over. The Secretary was requested to obtain copies of the Bill and forward one to each member, so that the matter may be fully discussed at the next meeting.

P.S.—Since the above meeting the Secretary has received a letter from the local M.P. (Sir C. Furness) stating that he has given his consideration to the Pharmacy Bill. He believes in individual responsibility in matters of this kind, and the main principles of the Bill have his entire sympathy and will receive his support.

## Deaths.

BOYD.—At 173 Radcliffe Street, Oldham, on March 6, Mr. John Boyd, chemist and druggist, late of Carlisle, aged fifty-five.

BREAREY.—At Springfield, near Douglas, on March 11, Mr. Arthur William Brearey, pharmaceutical chemist, who carried on the oldest chemist's business (that of Brearey & Son) in the island. Mr. Brearey, who was only forty-eight years of age, retired last year from the business, which was established by his father more than half a century ago, and devoted his time to the study of horticulture. He was at work in his garden when he had an apoplectic seizure, and died suddenly. Mr. Brearey was a prominent Freemason, being a P.M. of the Tynwald Lodge. He occupied several public positions, and was for some time treasurer of Noble's Hospital. He was also a Douglas Poor-law Guardian.

EVANS.—At Tregaron, Cardiganshire, on February 28, Mr. David Evans, chemist and druggist, aged fifty-seven.

FIELD.—At Mablethorpe, Lincs, on March 3, Mr. William Cubitt Field, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-nine.

GREEN.—We are informed of the death, on March 10, of Mr. Green, who was for forty years with Messrs. Ferris, Bourne, Townsend & Boucher, Union Street, Bristol. The funeral took place on Tuesday.

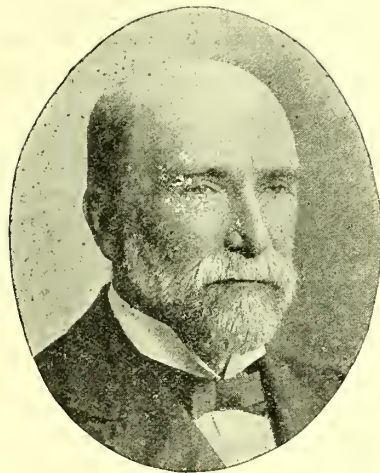


**GRICE.**—On February 22, at 9 Dalhousie Square, Calcutta, Maggie Constance, wife of Walter Thomas Grice, chemist and druggist (of Smith, Stanistreet & Co.), aged 20.

**HARGRAVE.**—On March 15, at Brae Side, Stretford, Mr. Spencer Hargrave, aged fifty-two, chemist and dentist, of 36 Upper Jackson Street, Manchester.

**McMILLAN.**—At 4 Linwood Terrace, Hillhead, Glasgow, on March 12, Mr. John McMillan, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-two years. Early this year Mr. McMillan met with the check which frequently is given to those who have worked too hard, a stroke of paralysis depriving him of speech and

to some extent of ability, but happily until the end came, all too soon, he was the clear-headed, cheerful man he always was. His death leaves pharmacy the poorer, for he was of the type more common comparatively fifty years ago than now—the competent, painstaking pharmacist, accurate in all his dealings, ever conscientious in regard to quality of materials, trustful to customers, and a helper to a wide circle of medical



friends. We have heard him called "the Martindale of Scotland," although the two men were utterly unlike, except in the one characteristic of love for pharmacy and practice of it in perfection. Mr. McMillan was a native of Ochiltree, and as a boy was apprenticed to Messrs. Murdoch Brothers, of Glasgow, at a time when Mr. Oswald Robertson (later of Bridge of Allan) was the senior and Mr. James Dickie a fellow apprentice to him. The three boys became noted as practitioners of pharmacy in the spheres they afterwards carved out for themselves, each succeeding, through personal magnetism and pharmaceutical culture, in making his name known. Mr. McMillan remained with Messrs. Murdoch Brothers as an assistant for some years after his apprenticeship, and it was while acting as senior assistant that the late Professor John A. Easton, M.D., was wont to go into the pharmacy. There he had many chats with Mr. McMillan about the administration of the phosphates, and as a result of these conversations Mr. McMillan worked out for the professor the formula for the famous syrup of the phosphates now known all the world over as Easton's syrup. The details of the matter are told in the *C. & D.*, lxii., page 667, and lxiii., page 163. The latter article is an admirable example of Mr. McMillan's kindly interest in pharmaceutical records, for when the former one appeared in our pages, he wrote to us suggesting that justice had never been done to Professor Easton's great abilities, and obtained for us a portrait of the professor and notes of his career. Without these Easton must have become more or less a myth to the next generation. Mr. McMillan started business on his own account in 1836 in the St. George's Cross district of Glasgow, and a few years later moved to No. 17 Great Western Road, which he fitted up in excellent style. Subsequently he added the first floor of the building as a laboratory and warehouse, and made other additions later. He also had branches at Hillhead and North Kelvinside. All his pharmacies reflected what we may call pharmaceutical genius, by which we mean that inborn power of designing furnishings, arranging and keeping stock, co-ordinating all branches of work in the pharmacy, and maintaining the highest character in his products. Mr. McMillan was intensely interested in practical pharmacy, but rarely ventured to write or speak on subjects related to it, except to those who he felt were equally interested. The local pharmaceutical associations, perhaps, saw him at his best in such matters, for since he was a boy he was an active participator in each; and it was

a piece of self-sacrifice for him to accept the honorary presidency of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association, of which he had long been President. He had the notion that the presence at meetings of veterans such as he prevented younger men having their say, so he accepted the honorary presidency when the late Mr. Daniel Frazer was called to lay it down. One who knew Mr. McMillan well says: "By his death Glasgow has lost a typical pharmacist—one who was jealous for the honour of our calling and spared no effort to carry out his ideas. He has had a long and honourable career, and his place will not be easily filled in the ranks of Glasgow pharmacy." Mr. McMillan is survived by Mrs. McMillan and two daughters and one son—Mr. David McMillan, chemist and druggist, who has been associated with him in business for several years. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, when a short service was held in Hillhead Parish Church, of which Mr. McMillan was an Elder. The coffin was placed in front of the pulpit and was covered with flowers. There was a large congregation of mourners, among whom were many medical men and chemists from all parts of the city. The service, conducted by the Rev. D. Strong, D.D., was very impressive, and at its close Chopin's "Funeral March" was played by the organist. The funeral cortege then moved along Great Western Road to Cathcart Cemetery. The general respect and esteem in which Mr. Millan was held were shown by the fact that the shops *en route* were partially closed, and all blinds down. Amongst those who went to the cemetery to pay a last tribute to their friend were the officers of the local Pharmaceutical Association, headed by Mr. W. L. Currie (President), and representatives of the Clan McMillan Society, of which Mr. McMillan was a Chieftain.

**OWEN.**—At 51 Crescent Road, Sharrow, Sheffield, on March 14, Mr. George Bargh Owen, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-nine. Mr. Owen was the oldest representative of one of the oldest chemists' families in Sheffield, his father having served his apprenticeship with Mr. Hawskworth in the High Street in the early part of last century and set up in business for himself at No. 7 Broad Street as long ago as 1822. After the death of Mr. Owen, sen., the business was carried on for some years by his widow, and was taken over in 1852 by her two sons, Mr. Walter and Mr. G. B. Owen. The two brothers worked together for some years, but afterwards dissolved partnership, Walter taking the shop in Duke Street and George retaining the Broad Street shop, where he remained until some three or four years ago, when he was obliged to remove to 12 Dixon Lane. Mr. Owen had a heavy trade, at a branch shop in Mary Street, and was a manufacturer of grease. Mr. Owen took a prominent part in Masonic matters for many years, and was highly respected in Sheffield.

**ROBB.**—At 32 Bank Street, Hillhead, Glasgow, on March 9, Mr. James Robb, chemist and druggist, aged fifty-nine. Mr. Robb had been manager in the Hillhead branch of Messrs. Frazer & Green (Limited) for over thirty years, having previously been dispenser in the Royal Infirmary. His retiring and gentle disposition made him have many friends, and the intimation of his death came as a shock to all who knew him. He was President of the Assistants' Association for several years, and during his term of office the work done by the Association was of a high order. His personality was very marked, and his utterances were always received with the utmost attention. He was popular, and there are many now scattered over the world who will ever cherish the influence exercised over them by Mr. Robb. His wife predeceased him many years ago, and his loss is now mourned by two daughters and one son, who is qualified and now in South Africa. His funeral on Saturday was attended by among many others Mr. J. W. Sutherland, managing director of Frazer & Green.

**SHERLOCK.**—At Tarporley, Cheshire, on February 27, Mr. John Sherlock, chemist and druggist, aged eighty-two.

**THOMAS.**—At Mae-teg, Mr. Isaac Jenkin Thomas, on March 9, chemist and druggist. Mr. Thomas was one of the founders of the Llynfi Lodge of Freemasons. He had been in business at Maesteg for ten years.

**WILSON.**—On March 6, at Banbridge, Ann Elizabeth, relict of the late Samuel Wilson, Cavanagarvin, and mother of Samuel Wilson, J.P., Medical Hall, Longford.



## Association Ballads.

### THE PURPOSE.

*The men, their aims, their daily irk;  
Their troubles, trials, thoughts, and views  
On things politic, foes that lurk  
In friendly guise, but treacherous work—  
These be the burden of our Muse.*

### XI.—CAMBRIDGE.

In that ancient seat of learning built beside the flowing Cam,  
Where the undergrad. is ruler and grave Dons with patience cram  
Barren, unproductive intellects with antiquated lore  
That just peels the rind of knowledge and ne'er reaches to the  
core—

There are devotees of pharmacy with wisdom to the full,  
Who meet in social converse at the hostel of "The Bull."

They have Saville Peck as President, so courteous and sincere,  
For whom so many candidates have shed a thankful tear;  
He rules his local brethren, suave and tender as can be,  
And he guides with skill the fortunes of each annual B.P.C.  
(He succeeds experienced Campkin, worthy son of worthy sire),  
But presumes not on his smartness, which we, seeing, all admire.

Then there's Secretary Campkin (of our Councillor the son),  
Who, for his work untiring, high encomiums has won;  
And our venerable Alderman and pharmacist—Deck,  
Ever ready, still, and eager to attend at duty's beck  
And to give advice on problems that succumb to veterans keen,  
Though they baffle Spencer Turner or the perky Reynolds  
Green.

Now, in spite of their environment, it boots us to relate  
That our friends, the Cambridge chemists, claim no monumental  
statue

Of an ultra-super-excellence in scientific style,  
For they keep themselves to business, and occasionally wile  
The quickly fleeting moments, after lighting up their lamps,  
With a hand-to-mouth discussion on the joys of medicine-stamps.

Then the ever-ready Addison swoops twaddle from its perch,  
And each one is indebted to the ho-pitable Church;  
And Cork, and Field, and Adams say that much has been their  
gain,  
And the same is said by Crampton, Flanders, Moss, and Percy  
Pain;  
Leach, and Course, and White, and Palmer speak the gratitude  
they feel,  
And Cooper, Coulson, Barker, Bryant, Beale—and also Beall.

So that ancient seat of learning built beside the flowing Cam  
Is a pleasant kind of pasture for the pharmaceutical lamb;  
For the Parson and the Yeomans frown upon all skittish flights,  
And conspire with Wright and Evans to make good and faithful  
Knights.

Let us hope their zeal for pharmacy will never, never cool,  
And as heretofore they'll gather at the hostel of "The Bull."

## New Books.

Allan, J. W. *Memoranda on Infectious Diseases for the Use of School-teachers*. 4½ x 3. Pp. 23. 6d., or 4s. dozen. (Wright & Co., Bristol.) [A little book which gives in the very briefest form the points which a teacher will find useful in detecting infectious diseases in school-children.]

Brundage, A. H. *Manual of Toxicology*. 3rd ed. 12mo. 6s. net. (Baillière.)

Cook, O. F. *Culture of Central American Rubber-tree (Bureau of Plant-Industry)*. 18 plates. 8vo. Pp. 83. Sd. 5s. net. (W. Wesley.)

Green, J. R. *A Manual of Botany*. Vol. I. Morphology and Anatomy. 3rd ed. Cr. 8vo. 7s. 6d. (Churchill.)

*Medical Directory for 1904*. 14s. (Churchill.)

*My Lawyer: Up-to-date Legal Adviser*. By a Barrister-at-Law. 17th ed. Cr. 8vo. 6s. (E. Wilson.)

Osmond, E. *Microscopic Analysis of Metals*. Ed. by J. E. Stead. Illus. 7½ x 5½. Pp. 138. 7s. 6d. (Griffin.)

Snyder, H. *Chemistry of Plant and Animal Life*. New ed. Cr. 8vo. 6s. net. (Macmillan.)

Stapcoole, Florence. *Ailments of Women and Girls*. 4½ x 7½. Pp. 238. 2s. (stiff boards, 3s. cloth). (J. Wright & Co., Bristol.)

## Scientific Progress.

**Coca-leaves.**—According to Hartwich ("Arch. der Pharm.," 241.617-30) there are three varieties of coca-leaves, derived respectively from *Erythroxylon Coca* var. *Spruceanum*, Burck, *E. bolivianum* and *E. Coca* var. *nova-granatense*, of which the last does not come into commerce. A description of each of these leaves is given, as well as of the common adulterants of the drug. Estimations of the alkaloidal contents of coças from various countries have also been made, of which the following may be quoted: Truxillo 0.78 per cent., Java 1.22 per cent., Cusco 0.91 per cent., Huanta 0.859 per cent., and Ceylon 0.83 per cent. The rich Java variety was *Spruceanum*. The author is of opinion that more attention should be devoted to coca-cultivation.

**Green-tea Cigarettes.**—These cigarettes have been smoked lately in England, according to Fritz Netolitzky ("Zeits. für Unters. Nahr. Genuss. 6, 982-985), as a remedy for migraine. This therapeutic action he ascribes to the large proportion of caffeine contained in the smoke, which, estimated by Mulder's process, is sometimes as much as 1.6 per cent. on the weight of tea smoked. The author has analysed a number of samples of these cigarettes, and has found that the alkaloid-content of the tea employed is usually about 0.4 per cent. with 0.9-1 per cent. of an essential oil of which about 0.2 per cent. occurs in the smoke. Traces of sulphuretted hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and ammonia were also detected in the latter. To get the full benefit of these cigarettes it is recommended that they should be smoked slowly.

**Colour-reaction of Pilocarpine.**—Barral ("Jour. de Pharmacie et de Chimie," 1904, 188) gives the following as characteristic colour-reactions of pilocarpine. He claims that the most characteristic is Wangerin's reaction, which depends on the fact that a violet-coloured body, soluble in benzene, is obtained by adding to a solution of pilocarpine a few drops of potassium-bichromate solution, and then a few drops of hydrogen-peroxide solution. On warming a solution of the alkaloid with persulphate of sodium, the liquid is coloured yellow, and a characteristic odour is developed. The vapour given off blackens nitrate of mercury and turns litmus blue. Formic aldehyde and sulphuric acid warmed with a solution of pilocarpine give a yellow colour, changing to red, and finally to brown. Mandelin's reagent gives a golden-yellow colour, changing to green, and then to a stable blue.

**Oil of Boldo.**—Tardy ("Jour. de Pharm.," 1904, 132) has examined the essential oil of boldo-leaves, which has hitherto not been examined, except in a cursory manner by Hanausek ("Jahresb. f. Pharm.," 1877). The latter stated that it had a sp. gr. of 0.915, rotatory power  $-1^{\circ}40'$ , and boiled between  $175^{\circ}$  and  $250^{\circ}$ . Tardy distilled 12 kilos. of dry leaves, and obtained therefrom 200 grams of essential oil. This did not agree with the oil described by Hanausek, which was probably adulterated. It had a sp. gr. 0.876, and a rotatory power  $-6^{\circ}30'$ . It was found to contain a trace of a phenolic body, boiling at  $245^{\circ}$ - $250^{\circ}$ , and possessing the empirical formula  $C_{10}H_{12}O_5$ . It appears to be eugenol, but further examination is necessary to establish this fact. A very small amount of an aldehyde was separated, having all the properties of cinnic aldehyde. A small amount of acetic esters was also separated. Two terpenes (at least) are present, of which one is pinene. An oxygenated body,  $C_{10}H_{18}O$ , was isolated by fractional distillation, and is probably terpinol. The higher-boiling fractions contain a levorotatory sesquiterpene.

**Sparteine.**—Two elaborate papers on the chemistry of the alkaloid sparteine appear in the "Bulletin de la Soc. Chim. de Paris" (1903, 1135 *et seq.*), by Moureu and Valeur. In view of several contradictory statements which have been published about this body, they have made a very full investigation to settle the disputed points once for all. Pure sparteine has the following physical characters:

Sp. gr.	...	$d_4^{20} = 1.0340$
"	...	$d_4^{20} = 1.0196$
Rotatory power	...	$[\alpha]_D^{20} = -16^{\circ}42'$
Boiling point	...	$188^{\circ}$ at 18.5 mm.
"	...	$325^{\circ}$ at 754 mm.
Refractive index at $19^{\circ}$	...	1.5293.

The original formula of Stenhouse,  $C_{15}H_{26}N_2$ , is amply confirmed. The alkaloid forms both neutral and acid salts and is a very powerful base indeed. The following are the compositions of some of its more important compounds:

Neutral sulphate,  $C_{15}H_{26}N_2 \cdot H_2SO_4 + 5H_2O$ .  
Chloroplatinate,  $C_{15}H_{26}N_2 \cdot 2HCl \cdot PtCl_4 + 2H_2O$ .  
Picrate,  $C_{15}H_{26}N_2 \cdot 2C_6H_3(OH)_3N_2O$ .

Numerous experiments have proved that sparteine is a bi-tertiary diamine, and that the methyl group is not attached to the nitrogen atom. A number of reduction derivatives have also been prepared.



## Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

### The Prime Minister's Reply

to Mr. O'Malley's suggestion that the Orange River Ordinance relating to companies and firms practising pharmacy might be adopted here may mean anything from nothing to much. Mr. Balfour had his mind pretty full of other matters when Mr. O'Malley's question came before him, and I expect a smart secretary fathomed it for him. Probably he stepped across pompous little Downing Street, saw Mr. Harrison in the Privy Council Office, was told that they had the matter in hand, and thereupon drafted the reply that "the subject is under consideration in connection with a Bill for the amendment of the Pharmacy Act which is in preparation." At the same time it is possible that the reply is more than a merely conventional one. For my part, I hope the Premier's statement is exactly and literally true. I do not expect that the Privy Council's Bill will be what it should be, but the sooner we have it in print the better.

### If it is a Bad Bill

they cannot pass it in face of our resistance, and equally it may be we cannot pass our good Bill without their aid. Then will come negotiations and correspondence which could easily be condensed into a five-minutes' talk on the telephone. "Good morning, Pharmaceutical Society; we are Privy Council." "Good morning, glad to see you." "What are your bottom terms?" "Clause 7. What are yours?" "Third part of the Poisons Schedule." I know what my reply would be; but I am now trying to write future history, not personal opinion, and I do not know how the official discussion would terminate.

### Mr. Carteighe

was similarly tantalising at Brighton. "It was an open question," he said, "whether it was worth going to Parliament at all if Clause 7 were deleted from our Bill." A crusade on an open question is not an inspiring undertaking, but apparently Mr. Carteighe and his audience left this one open. "The business part of the meeting was terminated," but it ought not to have been till that open question was settled. The Brighton crusaders, I am afraid, were too eager for their "social chat."

### The P.A.T.A. Books

are likely to be the best-thumbed pieces of printing on chemists' desks by next Christmas. I hope by that time, too, the blank pages will be pretty well inked over. To have secured the co-operation of 148 manufacturers and of practically the whole of the wholesale distributors in a combination which, it must be admitted, flies straight in the face of Adam Smith, is no small achievement. Those gentlemen, no doubt, have axes of their own to grind, but a good many of them were influenced not a little by sentiment. Indeed, it is probably correct to say that the Association would never have got established if it had not been for the hearty desire of some successful proprietors, apart from sordid motives, that those who dealt in their articles should get a fairer share of the profits on them. Certainly there has been

### None too much of this Chivalry

among the proprietors, nor can it be contended that retail distributors have made a distinctly better show of this commodity. Two out of three of them have accepted the benefits without contributing anything at all to the costs of the scheme. Those two

thirds are past preaching at, but some of them may be attracted by the P.A.T.A.'s sporting offer which appears on page 68 of the "Year-book." In lieu of the 5s. subscription, says P.A.T.A., we will gladly accept one week's profits on P.A.T.A. articles. Two per cent. of the profits resulting from the organisation is not an extravagant proportion to pay towards engineering it.

### The Buying Clubs

have, apparently, in most cases taken the protest of the wholesale section of the P.A.T.A. very appreciatively. The scheme of profit-protection depends entirely on the active and vigilant assistance of the wholesalers—the task of coping with the black-list people falls on them exclusively—and they not unnaturally complain when they see spreading all over the country a system calculated to deprive them of such reward as was by mutual agreement set apart for them. Their share cannot be legally insisted on; it is simply the result of an honourable understanding. But no games would be possible unless all sides could be trusted to play according to the rules; and I think those few clubs who object to be dictated to in such a matter might at least abstain from parading their independence.

### Mr. Pond's Pharmaceutical History

is not to be implicitly trusted. The chemists of 1802 to 1813 may have been as clever as he thinks they were, but they certainly did not exhibit their smartness by their dealings with the apothecaries. The latter body had no desire to interfere with them, and offered to make this quite clear in their Act by a clause which would have been effective; the chemists, however, insisted on altering the clause in such a way that a famous judge has said that it leaves a chemist liable to a penalty of 20% if he gives a draught for a headache. Mr. Pond says it was the apothecaries and surgeons of those days who "tried hard to take us under their care, enslave us," &c. The only recorded attempt which at all fits that description was a tentative proposal made in the early sixties by the General Medical Council to bring pharmaceutical education, examination, and practice under their control. It was the opposition to this proposal that led to the Pharmacy Act of 1868.

### There is not much "Ex"

in Mr. "Ex-Razor's" truculent flourish of his weapon. "Why should we cringe and cower before officialdom, and wait with bated breath on what Somerset House says or thinks?" he asks. The answer is that there need be no cringing or cowering on either side. The Somerset House officials politely intimate to us that in their opinion we have infringed the Act, and invite our reply. We can defy them if we like and take our chance in the law courts; or by a courteous statement of our ignorance and regret (this is what "Ex-Razor" calls cringing and cowering) we may get off for half-a-sovereign. Do we want those "letters before action" dropped? Because this would be the prudent course for Somerset House to take if the compromise penalties thus obtained were held on such an insecure tenure as Messrs. Cummings suggested.

### Candles

are still sold, it appears, gas, incandescent mantles, petroleum, and the electric light notwithstanding. I notice that Price's Patent Candle Company made a profit of 92.82% in 1903, which, if not a record, was at least above the average. True, that company make many other things as well as candles, but these are understood to be their leading line still. Whether the home trade is increasing or not I cannot tell, but the export figures are remarkable. In 1896 the quantity exported from the United Kingdom was 21½ millions of pounds, valued at 357,000£; in 1903 it was 31 millions of pounds in weight, and the value was 528,000£. In the years between the two named the progress was steady and unchecked.



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## Editorial Comments.

### Adequate Disclosure.

No memorandum is perhaps necessary to bring the fact home to all registered chemists and others interested in the sale of dutiable medicines that from the time they open their shops on the morning of the last day of this month a considerable number of medicines hitherto not charged with stamp-duty will become dutiable. An avalanche of labels to be marked "Liable," "Not liable," and "Exempt" during the past fortnight has indicated to us that many are setting their houses in order, and some of the labels which purpose to disclose the principal ingredients of the preparations without reference to a published formula induce us to make some remarks on a probable danger to the whole trade.

It will be remembered that in their first letter (June 3, 1903) on the application of Exemption 3 the Board of Inland Revenue required the composition of the exempted medicine to be fully disclosed on the label, but this was afterwards (August 14, 1903) modified so as to give exemption "if the label contains an adequate indication of the ingredients of the medicine." As examples the Board mentioned as "within the scope of the exemption medicines described by such titles as 'quinine and iron tonic' or 'compound rhubarb pills,' provided the titles in each case disclose the principal ingredients of the preparation." We have received a considerable number of labels of this character embodying a dutiable recommendation, but have felt it impossible to say whether the medicines are exempt or not, while in other cases we have thought the disclosure inadequate. The doubt resolves itself into a question as to whether the actual names of the principal ingredients should be stated. Taking the Board's example, "quinine and iron tonic," as an illustration, the title *per se* is not dutiable, but the Board have anticipated that in many cases the tonic will bear or be accompanied by a dutiable recommendation, so that the privilege of Exemption 3 will be claimed. It is obvious that the Board do not insist that the medicine shall contain quinine alkaloid and metallic



iron as such, but that they recognise the common acceptance of the title—viz., that the therapeutic properties of the medicine are due to quinine and iron in combination, which the skill and knowledge of the chemist enable him to effect. One object of the exemption is to give preference to this skill and knowledge and (subject to no claim of occult secret, exclusive right, or other conditions of dutiability specified in the exemption) the title "quinine-and-iron tonic" is an adequate disclosure of the principal ingredients of the preparation. But as soon as the chemist begins to add to the preparation other therapeutic agents (not being colouring or flavouring agents, such as chloroform and orange, or a solvent material such as a dilute mineral acid) the added matter becomes a principal ingredient, and should either be disclosed in the title or reference should be made to the published formula. There are seventy-two formulas for this preparation in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," Vol. II., and the majority of them contain such additional ingredients as nux vomica, quassia, strychnine, belladonna, potassium bromide, and gelsemium. In these cases it will suffice to continue the old labels, and, if the preparation is recommended thereto or otherwise for ailments, the labels should be marked—

PREPARED ACCORDING  
TO "PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS," No. —.

The same principle of disclosing the name of the therapeutic agent, and not necessarily the name of the galenical preparation of the agent, applies in the case of mixtures described thus:

#### **Cod-liver Oil Emulsion,**

*Combined with Hypophosphites.*

#### **Cold and Influenza Mixture,**

*Containing Spirit of Nitre, Yarrow and Vervain.*

#### **Salicylic and Indian Hemp Corn-solvent.**

#### **Balsamic Cough-lozenges,**

*Composed of Balsam Tolu, Ipecacuanha, and Bath Pipe-paste.*

#### **Digestive Quinine and Iron Tonic.**

*A Valuable Combination of Pepsin, Quinine, and Iron.*

#### **Indigestion-powder.**

*Composed of Bismuth, Magnesia, and Aromatic Powder.*

In all these cases all the active ingredients are named, and the disclosure is adequate. No friction between the administrative authorities and retailers is at all likely to follow such practices, but we apprehend some in another direction and illustrate it with two labels:

#### **Cough-elixir.**

*A valuable and tried remedy, composed of Squills, Ipecacuanha, Liquorice, Balsamic Ingredients, &c., &c.*

Inquiry leads to the discovery that the elixir is made from the following formula:

Ext. glycyrrhizæ liq. ...	...	...	3ij.
Acet. scillæ ...	...	...	3iiss.
Tr. camphoræ co. ...	...	...	3xx.
Vin. ipecacuanhæ ...	...	...	3iiss.
Vin. antimonialis ...	...	...	3iiss.
Liq. morph. acetat. ...	...	...	3iv.
Liq. morph. hydrochlor. ...	...	...	3iv.
Potass. nitratis ...	...	...	3ij.
Aq. bullientis ...	...	...	3xx.

M.

Here every ingredient is an active ingredient, except the water. The case illustrates how much easier it is to refer to the published formula than to name the principal

ingredients. It also illustrates imperfect disclosure. We finally refer to deceptive disclosure:

#### **Gout and Rheumatic Mixture,**

*Containing Magnesia, Potash, and Colchicum.*

This we find to be prepared from the following formula:

Magnesii sulphatis ...	...	...	3vj.
Potassii bicarbonatis ...	...	...	3ij.
Potassii iodidi ...	...	...	3iiss.
Tr. colchici ...	...	...	3iiss.
Aq. menthæ piperitæ ad ...	...	...	Oiv.

M.

In the Board's example "quinine" stands for the citrate, hydrochloride, hydrobromide, and sulphate of the alkaloid; and "iron" stands for numerous salts thereof. Why should not "magnesia" stand for magnesium sulphate, and "potash" for potassium bicarbonate and iodide? If advantage in the sinister sense is to be taken of the Board's example, nothing more need be said, but we know that smooth working of the ruling does not lie in that direction. A fairer description of the composition of the gout and rheumatic mixture would be "a combination of potash with iodine, colchicum, and Epsom salts," but a true description would be to name each of the ingredients (except the water). Several examples of a similar nature submitted to us indicate an endeavour to conceal the nature of the medicine, which is exactly the opposite of the official intention. We trust that by calling attention to the matter thus early friction and trouble will be avoided when the revenue authorities begin to enforce the law with the aid of the Government laboratories.

### **Bill 6.**

A DAY or two after Parliament reassembled at Westminster this session there was presented by Mr. Bousfield a Bill to amend the law relating to weights and measures, which became somewhat mysterious, because it was not available as a printed document. Mr. Bousfield has the support of Mr. Parker Smith and Sir John Brunner in this venture at the amendment of existing law. The Bill is divided into four parts, the first three dealing with administration defects in the Weights and Measures Acts. The sting of the Bill is in Part IV., which consists of the following short clauses:

(1) On and after the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and eight, the systems of weights known as troy weight and apothecaries' weight shall be replaced by the metric system of weights, and all commodities heretofore usually bought or sold by troy weight or apothecaries' weight shall henceforward be bought and sold by the metric weights.

(2) The Board of Trade shall make rules giving effect to this portion of the Act, which shall be laid upon the table in both Houses of Parliament for forty days before they come into force.

The question that naturally arises on reading such clauses is, Will the advantages gained be sufficient compensation for the inconvenience caused to physicians by a compulsory abolition of apothecaries' weights? As chemists, we are accustomed to work with metric weights and measures when performing analytical operations, and are quite ready to acknowledge the convenience of the system. What, however, has now to be considered is whether we are justified in forcing our preference for the smaller denominations of the metric system on physicians who are accustomed to calculating doses in apothecaries' weights. It may further be asked why drugs and gold should alone be selected for compulsory adoption of the metric system, and why measures are excluded from the compulsory requirement. The survival of the old apothecaries' weights is probably due to the fact that the ounce and drachm are so readily divided. The calculation



of small doses from an ounce of 480 gr. is a much more simple operation than if it is attempted in the avoirdupois ounces and the question arises whether an advantage will accrue by substituting the metric usage for apothecaries' weights. At present a small proportion of the prescriptions dispensed in this country are written in metric denominations, and there is nothing to prevent a physician from doing that if he wishes it. We should have preferred to have indications from the medical profession that they desire a change in the present system. Pharmacists have no difficulty in dispensing prescriptions in which metric weights are used, but it is questionable whether a large proportion of doctors are aware that the continental usage involves the practical abolition of the measure, unless some provision is made for perpetuating an approximate drop, such as we at present have in the minim. However, Bill 6 is scarcely within the range of practical politics, and we fancy Mr. Bousfield's object is to educate the Board of Trade in the way he thinks they should go. Meanwhile the Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill is progressing through the Select Committee, which consists of Lord Belhaven, Lord Kelvin, Lord Farrer, Lord Wolverton, Lord Colchester, and Lord Addington. Witnesses generally are agreed that the metric system would not cause much inconvenience in ordinary trading, as in buying and selling sugar and tea, beer and tobacco, drugs and draperies; but when the larger interests are approached the difficulties seem almost insurmountable. For example, the chief of the Ordnance Survey Department, who appeared before the Committee, is a strong opponent of the system, not only because it would alter all the work done by his Department, but because every contract for land would be affected by it. These larger interests receive no consideration in the Bill. Nor do British industries, in which are millions of pounds' worth of machinery and tools constructed on the Imperial gauge.

## The Pharmacy Bill.

PROGRESS may be reported—not, perhaps, in the parliamentary sense, but in that equally important aspect which enables chemists to educate Parliament. This is wanted, and the opponents of the measure are playing beautifully into the hands of its promoters by showing remarkable ignorance of the purpose of the Bill. Sir Mark Stewart, Bart., member for the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, is the latest accession to the little teachers. His principal objection to the Bill is that it will raise the price of artificial manures. We hope every chemist in Sir Mark's constituency will write to him restoring his confidence on that point. The Bill no more touches the sale of manures than it does the sale of gold watches. Chemists in the stewardry should clip out from page 417 of last week's *C. & D.* the objects of the measure as stated in the preamble. Mr. Cross, of Camlachie, the manufacturer of arsenical ant-killer and similar tasty products, has also delivered himself into the hands of the promoters of the Bill by the careless way in which he speaks of it. Mr. Cross indignantly asks what protection is it to the public to have qualified directors sitting upstairs and unqualified assistants serving the public downstairs? The secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society might write a reply to Mr. Cross, telling him in as gentle a way as possible that one of the principal objects of the Bill is to ensure greater protection to the public by having every shop where poisons are sold registered, and a registered man to manage each shop. Mr. Cross already knows that any unqualified assistant who sells poison infringes the law as it at present stands, and we fancy he has personal experience of the matter. Such utterances as his give splendid scope

for educating M.P.s. The P.M.V. and D.S.K. Association is the last to fall into the hole. Flushed with the consciousness of success at Somerset House, the Association turns to the Pharmacy Bill, and pretends to see in it an attack upon unqualified drug-store keepers. It is really nothing of the kind, unless in so far as such persons may be breaking the law as it stands now, owing to inefficient means for detecting and punishing law-breakers. The Association will do the Pharmacy Bill excellent service by continuing to harp on this string, for there is no parliamentary work so effective as that which demonstrates how the law can be strengthened so as to give fuller effect to the intentions of the Legislature.

## Public Dispensing by Medical Men.

There is one aspect of the medical dispensing question to which it would be well for pharmacists throughout the country to pay some attention—viz., the practice whereby a large number of medical men holding appointments as medical officers for Poor-law districts are required to provide and dispense their own medicines. This practice is recognised as bad in principle, and the Local Government Board have laid it down that wherever possible drugs should be contracted for by the Poor-law authority, and not supplied by the medical officer. In scattered country districts, where the medical officer's district extends many miles from any possible distributive centre, as, for instance, the workhouse dispensary, it is the almost invariable practice to allow the officer to dispense his own medicines, and in this practice pharmacists have a direct and serious grievance. The Local Government Board have themselves suggested a remedy. In a circular which they issued many years ago with reference to the supply of expensive medicines, they suggested that these medicines should be supplied to the sick poor (1) from a store at the workhouse or other convenient place of deposit in the Union, from which *they could be dispensed on the prescription of the medical officer*; (2) *by an order of the medical officer on a chemist*, the cost of the medicines so ordered to be paid for by the Guardians to the chemist; or (3) by the medical officers themselves. The first plan was recommended as the most convenient in town unions and the other two in country unions. In congested areas lying at some distance from the workhouse there are two courses open—viz., the establishment of branch dispensaries, or (as the Local Government Board suggest) an arrangement with a chemist in the neighbourhood to dispense, at a fixed rate if necessary, on the prescription of the medical officer. Both these plans are in operation in various parts of the country, and have been found to work admirably. In unions where these conditions exist there is not the slightest excuse for allowing the medical officers to do their own dispensing, and in all cases where arrangements cannot be made for the medicines to be supplied by the Guardians (from headquarters or branch dispensaries), pharmacists should see that the alternative arrangement is put into operation. Even in sparsely populated areas there are comparatively few unions where the pharmacist is not almost as accessible as the medical officer, and if Guardians are not aware of the powers they possess in this respect, it should be made the duty of local chemists' associations to draw their attention to these powers.

THE value of all kinds of chemicals and drugs imported into Mexico during 1902 was 552,594 $\frac{1}{2}$ ., as against 508,181 $\frac{1}{2}$  in the preceding year. The principal articles imported under this heading in 1902 were colours of all kinds, prepared and in powder or crystals, valued at 92,926 $\frac{1}{2}$ .; drugs of all kinds, including patent medicines and pills, valued at 92,345 $\frac{1}{2}$ .; caustic soda and potash, valued at 52,720 $\frac{1}{2}$ .. All kinds of perfumery and soaps are included in the total, as well as a number of smaller and less important articles.



## Legal Reports.

### High Court.

#### THE TABLOID CASE APPEAL.

THIS appeal by Thompson & Capper has not yet appeared on the list, but it is expected daily.

### Medicine-stamp Acts.

#### MAGIC REMEDIES.

AT the Marlborough Street Police Court, on March 16, the Century Thermal Bath-cabinet (Limited) were summoned at the instance of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for selling patent medicines without a licence, and for selling unstamped two proprietary articles liable to stamp-duty. Mr. A. L. Pointing, managing director of the company, appeared to answer the summons; and Mr. Simpson, of the Solicitors' Department, Somerset House, prosecuted.

In opening the case Mr. Simpson said the defendant company was a limited company, but it was practically a one-man affair, as the articles of association showed that out of the total of 507 shares 501 were held by Arthur Lewis Pointing, six other persons holding one share each. Mr. Pointing is managing director of the company, chairman of directors, and "will continue in office until he resigns." The registered offices of the company are at 203-5 Regent Street, W., but there is a branch of the business, known as the Magic Foot-draft Company, at 2 Pugh's Place, Carnaby Street, Golden Square, W. This latter company traded in "magic foot-drafts," a kind of porous plasters, used for applying to the sole of the feet, and guaranteed to cure rheumatism. In connection with the "drafts" they also sold pills, called the "magic regulators," which were likewise claimed to be good for rheumatism. The fame of these "magic" remedies had reached the ears of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and it was found that the defendant company had no patent-medicine licence, neither were the articles stamped. Therefore, acting on special instructions from the Commissioners, Mr. Jameson, one of their officers, called at Pugh's Place and made purchases of the "magic foot-draft" (for which he paid 4s 6d.) and of "magic regulators" (for which 5s. was paid). Neither were stamped, although on a circular in the same envelope with the "draft" were several handbills, one stating that the company were the "sole proprietors and only manufacturers of the magic foot-draft," another stated that it would cure rheumatism, and a third said it was a "patent." The company also claimed to be "sole manufacturers of the magic regulators," and said the "regulators" were "specially prepared for the prevention, relief, and permanent cure of all diseased conditions of the secretory organs." At a later date Mr. Jameson, accompanied by the local supervisor, went again to Pugh's Place, and were told by the manager at that place that the business was owned by the Century Thermal Bath-cabinet (Limited). They then proceeded to Regent Street, where they saw Mr. Pointing, who admitted that the business at Pugh's Place was carried on by the Bath-cabinet Company. Asked by the Revenue officers why the articles sold were not stamped, Mr. Pointing explained that it was a most unusual occurrence to make a sale in the way it had been effected in the case of Mr. Jameson. Almost the whole of the business in the "magic" remedies was done by post. Free samples were sent to anyone applying for them, and if the person was satisfied on using the remedies that they were good for rheumatism the 4s. 6d. was sent on, but if the purchaser was not satisfied no payment was made. In such circumstances Mr. Pointing considered that the articles were not liable to stamp-duty, nor was a licence required, as in a great many cases it was doubtful whether an actual sale did take place. Mr. Simpson concluded by reading the section of the Act of George IV., under which the proceedings were taken, which elicited from Mr. Plowden (the Magistrate) the following succinct comment:

"Yes; its a wide net."

In answer to the Magistrate, Mr. Pointing pleaded guilty, saying that he was quite in ignorance of the necessity for stamping the articles.

Formal evidence of the purchase was then given by Mr. Thomas Jameson, samples of the "magic foot-draft" being handed up to Mr. Plowden, who asked:

How is it applied?

To the sole of the foot.

Oh! (replied the witty Magistrate) a medicine for the sole. (Laughter.)

In the course of his evidence Mr. Jameson said Mr. Pointing told the supervisor and himself, at the interview they had with him, that he was spending 400% a month in advertising these products, and was receiving 480% in return.

Mr. Plowden (to defendant): Is this an American enterprise?—Y's.

How long has it been working in this country?—About three or four months.

Has everyone in the United States been cured, and you have come to conquer this country? (Laughter.)

Continuing, the Magistrate said he did not doubt but that defendant had acted in ignorance of the medicine-stamp requirements, and imposed the nominal fine of 10s. and costs.

### County Court Cases.

#### JUDGE SMYLY ON "COVERING."

AT the Shoreditch County Court, before Judge Smyly, K.C., Messrs. Marion James & Ker (Limited). Hackney Wick, sued the Globe Drug-stores, 92 High Road, Lee, S.E., for 5l. 15s. 8d. for goods sold and delivered. Mr. T. H. Aldous, for the plaintiffs, said that he did not know what the defence was, but read a letter from Mr. H. Bradley, whereupon that gentleman stepped into the defendant's box, and the following conversation ensued:

His Honour: But who are you in regard to the Globe Drug-stores?—Mr. Bradley: I was the manager, but the company was closed last year.

His Honour: Yes; but we are dealing with drugs here, and I want to know who were the persons trading as the Globe Drug-stores?—Mr. Bradley: Well, I will take the responsibility.

His Honour: But were you a one-man company?—Mr. Bradley: Well, hardly that, for as regards the purchase and sale of drugs a Mr. Simmons had charge, as it is necessary for a fully qualified man to do that.

His Honour (sarcastically): Now I see. It is Mr. Bradley trading as the Globe Drug-stores, with a Mr. Simmons covering—I think that is the term used for the curious system. It is astonishing to me that such a system of trading can be considered legal. I shall amend the summons to "Hugh Bradley, trading as the Globe Drug-stores." What is your defence to the claim?—Mr. Bradley: I have no knowledge of the plaintiff firm whatever except that they sent me certain goods, which I returned, being unordered.

Mr. Aldous: That is so; the goods were returned, but we hold them at the defendant's risk.

The defendant proceeded to explain that he had had certain ready-money transactions with a Mr. Southern, who, it transpired, had been in plaintiffs' employment, and is now in prison. Ultimately it was agreed to adjourn the case for a fortnight to get Southern's attendance. Before adjourning his Honour said:

When a "company" is only covered by a qualified man, is an order signed by the "company" for drugs legal, in accordance with the law, for the company is not qualified and the man covering is not a legal partner? What I mean is, if you sued for drugs or poisons you must sue the qualified man; you could not sue the unqualified man, for the sale to such a person would be illegal. What little I know, I take it that would be practically the position.

Mr. Aldous: I am scarcely prepared to argue such a point, but do not believe it will arise here; but should I find it does, I will apply to have Mr. Simmons joined as a defendant.

His Honour: Who is Mr. Simmons?

Mr. Bradley: He is connected with a very well-known drug-house, whose name at present I would rather not mention.

His Honour: It certainly suggests itself to me as a dangerous practice, this covering.

#### A TRAVELLER'S CLAIM.

AT Manchester County Court on March 11, David Harris, a commercial traveller, brought an action to recover 43l. commission and damages for wrongful dismissal from Messrs. Hartmann, Hohman & Co., wholesale chemists



Strangeways. After hearing evidence Judge Parry gave judgment "for the plaintiff for 18*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, costs reserved and execution stayed, the defendants to have all the costs of the issue of wrongful dismissal; the counterclaim (for 29*l.*) adjourned and referred to the Registrar to take an account, costs reserved; the Registrar not to take the account until the defendants' costs, less 18*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, have been taxed and paid."

### Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

#### VINEGAR.

At Southampton on March 10, William Dunford, Mount Pleasant Road, was fined 2*s.* 6*d.* for selling as malt vinegar an article which contained 83 parts of distilled vinegar and 17 parts of added water. Other traders were similarly dealt with, the cases being taken "more as a warning than for punishment."

#### MACE.

At Wolverhampton on March 11, before the Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. N. C. A. Neville), Wm. Henry Robins, of the Star Tea Company, 58 Dudley Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with having sold 2 oz. of ground mace which was certified by the public analyst to contain 25 per cent. of foreign ingredient—namely, Bombay mace—called "wild" or "false" mace. Mr. Jones, the analyst, said in evidence that Bombay mace was worthless as a spice, and was a well-known adulterant of genuine mace. Mr. F. W. Beck (Neve, Beck & Kirby), who defended, submitted that there was no offence, as upon the analyst's certificate it was stated that the mace was ground mace. Apart from that, however, he could show the Star Tea Company bought the mace under a warranty from a large and well-known firm of grinders, who guaranteed all goods supplied by them to be made up in accordance with the British Pharmacopœia, and when not so made up they were guaranteed pure. Evidence to this effect having been given, the Stipendiary held that the case for the warranty had been made out and the summons was dismissed.

#### ARSENIC IN CREAM OF TARTAR.

At Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on March 5, Henry Bullen and Ebenezer Bullen, grocers, Ashby, were summoned for selling cream of tartar which, according to the certificate of the county analyst, contained  $\frac{1}{10}$  gr. of arsenic per lb. It was not suggested that Messrs. Bullen introduced the arsenic. They probably did not know it was present, but defendants had omitted to protect themselves as they ought to have done in connection with the purchase. Henry Bullen, one of the defendants, said the article in question was purchased from Messrs W. & D. Harvest, of London, and it was sold in the same condition as received. They had dealt with the firm for twenty or thirty years. They had authorised witness to state that they had a warranty from them, but the letter from the firm had arrived too late to enable them to give notice of it as a defence. The Chairman said the defendants would have to pay a fine of 2*l.* 2*s.*, and 1*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* costs. Whilst the Bench considered that the defendants had acted unwittingly in the matter, the public must be protected, and the right course must be taken.

In connection with this case Messrs. Neve, Beck & Kirby, writing on behalf of Messrs. Harvest, state that the cream of tartar supplied to Messrs. Bullen was bought by them under a warranty of purity and re-sold in the same condition, and that while they recognise their responsibility to Messrs. Bullen, they are taking steps to make their vendors responsible to them. It appears that the presence of arsenic, which is undoubtedly due to some defect in the manufacturing process, was quite unknown to the trade and to everyone concerned until three or four weeks ago, and Messrs. Harvest are making every effort to trace and remove the cause. In these circumstances they ask readers not to blame them for what they are no more personally responsible for than Messrs. Bullen are.

#### CAMPHORATED OIL.

At the South-Western Police Court on March 16, before Mr. Francis, the Stipendiary, Samuel V. Brook, chemist and druggist, 35 Grayshott Road, Battersea, was summoned under Section 6 (1875) for selling camphorated oil which

was reported by Mr. Cassal, the analyst, to contain .77-46 of oil not having the characters of olive oil, and 22-54 of camphor. Mr. P. Caudwell prosecuted, and Mr. C. H. Kirby (of Messrs. Neve, Beck & Kirby), representing the Chemists' Defence Association, defended.

Mr. Caudwell briefly explained the case.

Mr. Kirby objected to the summons as irrelevant. It did not say what defendant was charged with. The summons said that he sold as camphorated oil an article which contained something not having the "characters of olive oil," but it did not say that it was not olive oil. What the absent characters were the certificate did not say.

Mr. Caudwell submitted that camphorated oil must come up to the B.P. standard, which provides that it must contain certain minimum percentages of camphor and olive oil.

The Stipendiary: Why does not the certificate say that the sample did not contain olive oil?

Mr. Caudwell: The analyst is only entitled to show that it did not contain the characters of olive oil.

The Stipendiary: The defendant is entitled to the benefit of any ambiguity.

Mr. Kirby stated that for the defence three analysts had been trying to find out what was wrong with the oil, and the only result which had been come to was that the certificate was a ridiculous one.

The Stipendiary suggested the withdrawal of the summons on the ground that the defendant was entitled to the benefit of any doubt which arose in consequence of the ambiguity of the analyst's certificate.

Mr. Caudwell agreed to withdraw the summons.

Mr. Kirby said he must ask for costs. Under a certificate like the one submitted a prosecution had no weight.

The Stipendiary replied that as the summons had been withdrawn he could not comply with Mr. Kirby's request.

### Bankruptcies and Failures.

*Re* JAMES SEMMS, Banbridge, Grocer and Druggist.—The liabilities amount to 1,200*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and the estimated net assets to 791*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* At a meeting of the creditors held on March 8, at Belfort, the debtor made an offer of 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, at four, eight, and twelve months, which was unanimously accepted.

*Re* EDWARD ERNEST BRUNSDEN, 14 Body Road, Reading, Chemist's Assistant.—At Reading, on March 10, an application was made by the debtor for discharge. Mr. Cecil Mercer, Official Receiver, reported that the receiving-order was made on March 14, 1903, upon the debtor's own petition. He attributed his insolvency to his wife's petition for judicial separation and pressure for the costs incurred thereby. The Official Receiver further reported that no dividend had or would be paid, the estate having realised only 1*l.* The principal statutory offence relied on was the fact that the debtor's assets were not equal to 10*s.* in the pound upon the amount of debts provable in the bankruptcy. The debtor's conduct throughout the proceedings was satisfactory. After some discussion Judge Russell said it seemed to him to be a most impertinent application, and he refused the order of discharge absolutely.

*Re* JAMES DORKIN HARMER, 17 and 75 St. Leonard's Road, Windsor, Chemist and Druggist.—The receiving-order was made on the debtor's own petition on February 24, and he has now filed accounts showing liabilities amounting to 416*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, of which 367*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* is expected to rank, and net assets amounting to 153*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* According to the Official Receiver's observations, the debtor, who has been adjudged bankrupt, states that he commenced business at 75 St. Leonard's Road, Windsor, in or about the year 1882, when he was possessed of stock, fixtures, &c., to the value of about 300*l.* About twenty-six years ago debtor was appointed sub-postmaster of Windsor, and had held this appointment up to the date of the receiving-order. The Official Receiver states that his valuers, who have attended at the debtor's premises, have advised him that, in their opinion, the premises should be closed; and he has accordingly given instructions for this to be done, and a sale of the loose effects will be held in due course. The debtor's wife and mother-in-law claim furniture to the value of 75*l.* The causes of insolvency are stated to be "the expiration of the lease of my premises and the refusal of the licensing justices to transfer the licence to other premises." The debtor has not given a proper account of his deficiency, but has been required to do so. He states he has kept debit and credit ledgers, day-book, takings-book, and private and household expenses book. No cash-book has been kept. He states that he



made out a balance-sheet two years ago, which showed a surplus, but cannot say where the balance-sheet is at the present time. The following are creditors:

	£	s.	d.
Barron, Harveys & Co., London ...	23	7	11
Bowen & McKechnie, London ...	10	14	10
Chaplin, W. H., & Co., London ...	102	5	6
Kinahan & Co., London ...	10	0	0
Liberty & Co., London ...	18	10	8
Purser, E. & A., Windsor ...	10	19	0
Royal Insurance Company, London ...	13	10	4
Short, H., Windsor ...	49	8	3

*Fully-secured Creditors.*

North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, London ...	31	0	0
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*Preferential Creditors.*

Rent ...	57	10	0
Rates, &c. ...	17	6	3

**Re PHILIP STONEHAM CANNING, Leighton Buzzard, Bedford, Chemist and Druggist.**—Accounts have been filed in this failure showing gross liabilities 3,591*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* and net assets 190*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* The receiving order was made upon the debtor's own petition on February 23. Debtor began business on his own account about six and a half years ago. He had previously been an assistant for many years to Mr. Richmond, who had carried on the same business. Mr. Richmond retired, and the debtor purchased from him, at valuation, the stock, fixtures, and goodwill for 1,075*l.* He borrowed this amount, together with a further 400*l.*, from a Mr. F. Hill, his brother-in-law, at 4½ per cent., so that practically he commenced business with a borrowed capital of 1,475*l.* Mr. Hill died in 1901, and left the debtor his executor and the whole of his estate, which consisted of the above 1,475*l.*, and it is in respect of this estate that a duty of 127*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* is scheduled as a debt payable in full. The books of account kept are debit and credit ledgers, cash-book, and day-book. According to the statement of accounts filed, there are twenty creditors whose debts exceed 10*l.*, and out of the total unsecured liabilities 362*l.* is for money borrowed and 150*l.* bank overdraft, the balance being ordinary trade debts. The creditors fully secured hold as security a first charge on freehold property in South Street, Leighton Buzzard, and a charge on a policy for 200*l.* on the debtor's life. The partly secured creditors hold first and second charges on the freehold property in High Street, Leighton Buzzard, and a second charge on the South Street property. The debtor states that he has never considered himself insolvent, and that his accounts showed an excess of assets over liabilities twelve months ago of 296*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* The causes of insolvency, as stated by the debtor, are "bad trade and depreciation in freehold property." The following are creditors:

	£	s.	d.
Atkinson, S., Paignton ...	200	0	0
Barron, Harveys & Co., London ...	30	0	0
Browning, J. & H., London ...	14	5	0
Canning, Percy, Leighton Buzzard ...	80	0	0
Gibbs, D. & W. (Limited), London ...	10	1	0
Hodgkinson, Clark & Ward, London ...	31	0	0
Jackson, Henry, Leighton Buzzard ...	13	5	11
Maw, Son & Sons, London ...	16	0	0
Southall Brothers & Barclay (Limited), Birmingham ...	21	10	0
Stedman & Durran, Leighton Buzzard ...	30	6	8
Taylor, T. & F. J., Newport Pagnell ...	69	0	0
Yirrell, Chas., Leighton Buzzard ...	63	14	8
Bankers (hold collateral security) ...	150	0	0
<i>Fully secured Creditors</i> ...	550	6	11
<i>Partly secured Creditors</i> ...	1,727	3	6
(Estimated value of security 1,663 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> )			

*Preferential Creditors.*

Balance of duty payable on residue of estate of the late F. Hills ...	127	19	3
Rates, taxes, &c. ...	33	16	0

## Gazette.

### The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

#### Partnerships Dissolved.

**Adams, J., and Curtis, W.**, under the style of Adams & Curtis, Warrington, physicians and surgeons.

**Greenwood, S., and Ormond, J. H.**, under the style of Greenwood & Ormond, Aston juxta Birmingham, physicians and surgeons.

#### RECEIVING ORDER.

**Blake, Arthur John**, Bournemouth, veterinary surgeon.

## Trade Notes.

**MESSRS. JULES LANG & SON** are show-bottle manufacturers. We said "showcase" last week.

**THE GROCERS' FEDERATION** has issued to its members a card bearing the names of medicines which grocers may sell without infringing the Medicine-stamp Acts and the Pharmacy Acts.

**EASTER HOLIDAYS.**—Messrs. T. Tyrer & Co., Stratford, will close their offices and warehouses from Thursday, evening, March 31, to Monday morning, April 4. We shall gladly intimate next week any other special Easter closings.

**THE LONDON ESSENCE COMPANY**, George Street, Camberwell Green, S.E., send us their recently published half-yearly report. It contains amongst other useful data as to essential oils an abstract of the investigation carried on in the company's laboratories on the determination of ketones and aldehydes in essential oils. A copy of the report will be sent to any of our subscribers on request.

**THE P.A.T.A. LIST** this week secures the notable additions of Mrs. Winslow's soothing-syrup and Brown's bronchial troches, which after March 21 have their retail prices fixed at 1*s.* The Anglo-American Drug Company (33 Farringdon Road, E.C.) tell us that in taking this step they are complying with the numerous requests from chemists all over the country that these goods should be placed on the P.A.T.A. list, and so yield the retailer a reasonable profit. Particulars of the readjusted prices are given in our advertisement-columns.

## Business Changes.

**BRAUTMAN'S DRUG-STORES** have recently been opened at 253 Commercial Road, E.

**MESSRS. BENSON & Co**, chemists, have carried out extensive alterations at their premises 157A Great Portland Street, W.

**MR. J. HUGHES**, chemist and druggist, Carlisle Street, The Moors, Cardiff, is opening a branch business at Splott Road, Cardiff.

**MR. STEARN**, of Colchester, has bought the business of Messrs. Simpson & Son, chemists, at Stowmarket, and will carry it on under the same style.

**THE TERROL COMPANY (LIMITED)** have removed their registered offices to Queen Street Chambers, 90 and 91 Queen Street, Cheapside, E.C.

**MR. C. G. RACKHAM**, chemist and druggist, of New Eltham, has bought the branch business of Messrs. Tovey & Underwood at Northam.

**MR. W. T. HORNBY**, chemist and druggist, has sold (through Mr. F. J. Brett, of Leicester) his drug and wine and spirit business at 63 Ormonde Street, Jarrow.

**MR. HENRY D. KELF**, pharmaceutical chemist, has purchased the West Norwood Pharmacy, 409 Norwood Road, S.E., formerly belonging to the late Mr. G. R. Haward.

**MR. WILFRED RUTTER**, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business carried on for the past eleven years by Mr. J. Hall Forster, chemist and druggist, at 174 and 176 Shield Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Mr. J. Hall Forster intends to devote the whole of his time to the wholesale druggists' sundries business which he purchased two years ago.

A CORRESPONDENT to a Sheffield paper states that the late Mr. George Gissing, the novelist, was the son of a Wakefield chemist of considerable scientific and literary ability. Gissing *père* was very popular in Wakefield and neighbourhood. He was the author of a "Flora of Wakefield," and died, like his gifted son, in early middle life, from a pulmonary affection.



## New Companies & Company News

**ALLEN & HANBURYS (AUSTRALASIA) (LIMITED).**—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects (except as to locality) and all other particulars are the same as in Allen & Hanburys (Africa) (Limited), given in *C. & D.*, March 12, page 433. (Corrected note.)

**LOCKWOOD, AUGUST & CO. (LIMITED).**—Capital 30,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (10,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire the business now carried on by Alfred Andrew Lockwood, W. P. F. August, and Alfred Arthur Lockwood, at the Millwall Soap-works, Poplar, as Lockwood, August & Co., and to carry on the business of soap manufacturers, pharmaceutical, manufacturing, and general chemists and druggists, drysalts, oil and colour men, &c. No initial public issue. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Remuneration of directors not receiving special salaries, 50*l.* each per annum (75*l.* for the chairman) and 5 per cent. of the surplus net profits, divisible. Registered office, 9½ Union Court, Old Broad Street, E.C.

**JEREZ ESSENTIAL OIL DISTILLING COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 4,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of distillers of essential oils recently commenced at Jerez, Spain, on the terms of an agreement with Wilson & Valdespino (Limited) and A. Pears. The first subscribers are: A. Pears, J.P., The Wakes, Selborne, Hants; J. W. Wilson, J.P., The Paragon, Blackheath; D. Wilson, 33 Lambton Road, Raynes Park, Surrey, wine-merchant; P. Bell, Glen Avis, Pelham Road, Beckenham, clerk; H. J. Wilson, 3 The Paragon, Blackheath, clerk; W. G. Luxford, 13 Canonbury Grove, N., clerk; and J. Naylor, The Chestnuts, Boundary Road, Woking, articled clerk. No initial public issue. The first directors are J. W. Wilson, J.P., S. R. Valdespino, and A. Pears, J.P. Qualification, 200*l.* Remuneration as fixed by the company.

**FERRIS & CO. (LIMITED).**—Capital 65,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on at 7 and 9 Union Street, St. Peter's, Bristol, under the style of "Ferris & Co.," to adopt an agreement with C. Townsend, H. H. Townsend, J. Boucher, C. E. Boucher, and J. M. Boucher, and to carry on the business of wholesale and retail chemists and druggists, analytical and consulting chemists, manufacturers of and dealers in pharmaceutical, medicinal, and other preparations and articles, manufacturers of surgical instruments and appliances, druggists' sundries, orthopaedic instruments, artificial limbs, hospital, shop, surgery, and laboratory fittings and furniture, ambulances, invalid and nursing appliances, soaps, perfumes, toilet articles, patent medicines, proprietary articles, surgical dressings, cutlery, vaccine, serum, mineral waters, bottles, tablets, capsules, and lozenges, drug-grinders, oil pressers and drawers, seed-crushers, wine and spirit merchants, makers of optical, photographic, electrical, dental, bacteriological and scientific instruments, and materials, &c. The first subscribers are: C. Townsend, St. Mary's, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, chemist; J. Boucher, 14 Tyndall's Road, Bristol, chemist; H. H. Townsend, 21 Downleaze, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, chemist; C. E. Boucher, 6 Coldharbour Road, Redland, Bristol, chemist; J. M. Boucher, 14 Tyndall's Park, Bristol, chemist; C. K. Townsend, Hillmorton Villa, Saeys Park, Bristol, gentleman; and F. M. Townsend, St. Mary's, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. No initial public issue. The first directors are C. Townsend, J. Boucher, H. H. Townsend, C. E. Boucher, and J. M. Boucher. Qualification, 500*l.* Remuneration, as fixed by the company. Registered office, 7 Union Street, Bristol.

**HOUGHTON'S (LIMITED).**—Capital 175,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (75,000 6-per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire and amalgamate (1) the business of George Houghton & Son (Limited), manufacturers of and dealers in photographic apparatus and appliances; (2) the business of Joseph Levi & Co., wholesale opticians and dealers in photographic apparatus and appliances; (3) the business of Spratt Brothers, manufacturers of photographic, scientific, and other apparatus and appliances; (4) the business of Holmes Brothers, manufacturers of photographic apparatus and appliances; and (5) the business of Alfred Charles Jackson, manufacturer and vendor of photographic apparatus and appliances, and to carry on the same and the business of mount, frame, and glass manufacturers, makers of optical instruments, chemists, druggists, drysalts, photographic and general printers, photolithographers, &c. The signatories are: G. Houghton, E. W. Houghton, and C. E. Houghton, High Holborn, L. M. Isaacs, M. L. Isaacs, and F. M. Isaacs, 97 Hatton Garden, E.C.; H. J. Spratt, A. S. Spratt, and G. A. Spratt, Tudor Works, Tudor Road, Hackney, N.E.; L. Holmes, L. E. Holmes, and H. Holmes, 3 Park Works, Park Street, N. No initial public issue. The number of directors is not to be fewer than four, nor more than ten; the first are G. Houghton, M. L. Isaacs, E. W. Houghton, L. M. Isaacs, A. S. Spratt, and H. J. Spratt. Upon G. or E. W. Houghton vacating office, C. E. Houghton is to become a director; upon M. L. or L. M. Isaacs vacating, F. M. Isaacs is to succeed; and

upon either A. S. or H. J. Spratt ceasing to be a director, G. A. Spratt is to take office. Qualification, 500 preference or ordinary shares. Remuneration of G. Houghton and M. L. Isaacs, 350*l.* each per annum; remuneration of other directors, as fixed by the company. Registered office, 88 and 89 High Holborn, W.C.

**EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA COMPANY (LIMITED).**—The directors have declared an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

**A. & F. PEARS (LIMITED).**—The directors have resolved to declare an interim dividend 1 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

**THE Chemische Fabrik auf Aktien, vorm. E. Schering, Berlin,** obtained a gross profit of 972,533*m.* in 1903, and are to pay a dividend of 15 per cent. against 10 per cent. in 1902.

**ANGLO-SICILIAN SULPHUR COMPANY (LIMITED).**—The directors have declared an interim dividend on the preferred shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year to January 31 last.

**HOUGHTON'S (LIMITED).**—This newly registered company is an amalgamation of George Houghton & Son (Limited); Messrs. Joseph Levi & Co., 97 Hatton Garden, E.C.; Messrs. Spratt Brothers, Tudor Works, Tudor Road, Hackney, N.E.; Messrs. Holmes Brothers, Park Street, Islington, N.; and Mr. A. C. Jackson, Ilex Camera-works, Northwold Road, Stoke Newington, N.E. The firms mentioned above are all well known in the photographic world, with perhaps the exception of Messrs. Holmes Brothers, the makers of the Sander-on cameras, which are supplied wholesale exclusively by Houghton & Son. The new company employs over six hundred persons, and is the biggest photographic combine of its kind in Great Britain. Mr. George Houghton will be chairman of the company, and Mr. M. L. Isaacs (J. Levi & Co.) vice-chairman.

**BARCLAY & SONS (LIMITED).**—The report of the directors for 1903 states that the profit for the year, after writing off bad debts, making ample allowance for those considered doubtful, and adding balance from 1902 (257*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*), is 3,430*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, out of which has been provided the interest on debentures and full dividends on the preference shares, amounting to 2,050*l.* 4*s.*, leaving an available balance of 1,379*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., absorbing 958*l.* 11*s.* This leaves a balance of 421*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, of which 210*l.* is to be written off the capital expenditure and investments, and the balance (211*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*) is to be carried forward. The retiring director is Mr. A. E. Barclay, who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The auditor (Mr. Harry Barker, F.C.A.) also retires and offers himself for re-election.

**SOUTHALL BROTHERS & BARCLAY (LIMITED).**—In their report for the year ended December 31, 1903, the directors inform the shareholders that the additional wing on the site of the Old Waterloo Tavern in Dalton Street is now practically complete and in the occupation of the company. Instead of adding two storeys to the old Dalton Street premises, as originally intended, the directors decided to erect an entirely new factory on the company's freehold at Saltley, adjacent to their existing mills, and this factory has now been equipped. Mr. Alfred Southall, F.C.S., who ceased to be a managing director at the close of 1901, has now retired from the Board. The accounts show that, after providing for bad debts, depreciation, and directors' remuneration, there is a balance of profit for the year of 14,111*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, giving a total, with 1,766*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* brought forward from last year, of 15,877*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* Out of this has been paid interest on loans 62*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, and an interim dividend on preference shares of 2,750*l.*, leaving a disposable balance of 13,065*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* The directors recommend that this should be appropriated as follows: Second half-year's dividend on preference shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (paid January 1), 2,750*l.*; year's dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, 7,200*l.*; to place to reserve 1,000*l.*; to contribute to building fund of men's hospital 50*l.*; and to women's hospital 50*l.*; and to carry forward 2,015*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* Mr. Thos. Barclay is the retiring director, and he offers himself for re-election.



## Festivities.

### Great Yarmouth Pharmaceutical Association.

The fifth annual dinner was held at the Star Hotel, Yarmouth, on March 10. The members turned up in good numbers, but great regret was expressed that illness had kept the President (Mr. W. Sheppard Poll) away. Mr. H. Palmer was in the chair, and Mr. W. G. Poll occupied the vice-chair. The toast-list was a short one, and the speeches commendably brief. After the usual loyal toasts, Mr. Richmond proposed "The Association," to which the Chairman replied; while Mr. P. R. Hill proposed "The Visitors," Mr. Beeching replying. A most enjoyable evening was spent.

### Irish Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association.

The second smoking-concert of the season was held on March 11 at Wynne's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin, the President (Mr. Edgar B. Aplin) in the chair. The attendance was large and representative, and an extended programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by the members and their friends, amongst whom were Messrs. W. S. North, F. Burke, Gerald Ewing, Frank Eugenie, C. Robinson, Downey, &c. Some glees and part-songs were sung by the visitors, and at the close of the concert a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman, who suitably replied. The company separated to the refrain of "Auld Lang Syne."

### An A. S. & K. Dinner.

The first social gathering of the employés of the amalgamated firms of Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool, and W. Kemp & Son, Horncastle, was held on March 11 at the Stork Hotel, Liverpool. It took the form of a dinner, and a large number of employés were present. Dr. Charles Symes (chairman of the company) presided, and three other directors were present—Messrs. H. G. Saunders, W. H. Saunders, and E. H. Bentley. The musical part of the programme was contributed by various members of the staff, and was of a very high order, consisting of songs, humorous sketches, recitations, and an instrumental and vocal quartette. The toast of "The Company," proposed by the Secretary (Mr. H. Wadsworth), was responded to by the Chairman, Mr. H. G. Saunders, and Mr. W. H. Saunders. Mr. Stubbs proposed "The Travelling Staff," which was responded to by Mr. E. H. Bentley.

### Cricketers Dine.

On March 5 Davy Hill's Cricket Club held their eighth annual dinner at the London Tavern, Fenchurch Street, E.C., Mr. C. A. Hill presiding, supported by Mr. R. Aird. The event was in every way a great success. An admirable dinner was followed by equally good speeches by Mr. J. O. Devereux ("The Club," replied to by Mr. H. S. Collins) and Mr. R. Aird ("The Firm," responded to by Mr. C. A. Hill). In the course of his reply, Mr. Hill emphasised the fact that the Trade Cricket League was badly in need of more competitors, and expressed the hope that clubs in the allied trades would come forward to compete for the Challenge Cup in 1904. Prizes were presented by the Chairman to Mr. G. Maughan for the highest batting average and to Mr. E. Sibley for the best bowling average during the past season. The musical portion of the programme, contributed by Messrs. Arnold Lewis, F. Damer, Leonard Nelson, Will Martin, and others, was much appreciated.

### Leeds Chemists' Association.

A smoking-concert in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society was held in Fairbairn's Restaurant, Athenæum Buildings, Park Lane, Leeds, on March 10, and it proved one of the most successful functions yet organised on behalf of the Leeds Association. The programme was an elaborate production, Mr. S. R. Mundell having provided some artistic illustrations (one "after Reynolds") embodying his keen sense of humour; and the promoters of the concert were indebted to Mr. F. Wilkinson (Pendleton) for gratuitously printing the programmes. There were about 140 persons present. Mr. Worfolk (the President of the Associa-

tion) was in the chair, and the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. W. D. Pollitt.

Amongst those who contributed to the musical programme were: Messrs. J. Russell, H. Strioger, and Hanson, tenors; Messrs. Hollingworth, Pearson, S. R. Mundell, and J. H. Sunley, baritones; Messrs. Crawford L. Steel, F. Helman, and Mackay, basses; Messrs. N. Fleu, Hartley, T. D. Driffield, and A. Sunley, humorists; Mr. Stockdale, piccolo; Mr. W. Lec, violin; Messrs. Syddall, A. B. Evans, and Tring, pianists. Recitations were given by Mr. Fred Phillips and Mr. Oglesby. During an interval the Chairman referred to the claims of the Benevolent Fund upon members and friends of the Pharmaceutical Society, and appealed for generous support on its behalf. The collection realised 71l. 12s., and included a cheque for fifty guineas from Messrs. Goodall, Backhouse & Co. (Limited). It was stated that further donations had been promised.

### Football League.

A very successful concert in connection with the Inter-Pharmacy Football League was held on March 16 at the Holborn Restaurant, W.C. Mr. W. Watson-Will was in the chair, and between two and three hundred persons were present. The musical programme was arranged by Mr. Sydney Jamieson, and was quite up to his standard of excellence. Half-way through the programme the Chairman made the presentation of the League cup, which this year has been won by the Metropolitan College, of which Mr. Watson-Will is principal. In making the presentation, the Chairman sketched the history of the cup since it was given five years ago. He eulogised the axiom *Mens sana in corpore sano*, and added that there is nothing like football to bring out the good points of a man. The "Square" Club, who were the holders of the cup in the previous year, had thoughtfully decorated it with the colours of the winning team—an instance of the good feeling which has characterised the contests for the cup. The Metropolitan team have played eight games and won all, with a record of fifty-six to six goals. Mr. B. T. Lloyd received the cup on behalf of the Metropolitan College, and each member of the team was presented with a medal. After the presentation the rest of the programme was gone through, and congratulations are due to the stewards, Messrs. T. G. Eirkett, F. Filmer de Morgan, H. Lucas, H. W. Miles, W. A. Whatmough, and A. Kirkland, for the excellent way the concert was organised.

## Births.

BURNS.—On February 26, at 3 Portland Place, Lancaster, the wife of F. Harris Burns, chemist and druggist, of a son.

GIBSON.—At Roseneath Cottage Hexham, on March 14, the wife of John Gibson, Ref.D., F.C.S., chemist and optician, of a daughter.

## Marriage.

STAMP—GUTHRIE.—At Sandgate Parish Church, on March 14, Alfred Edward, son of Mr. Edward Blanshard Stamp, pharmaceutical chemist, Hampstead, to Edith Florence, second daughter of Mr. Charles Thompson Guthrie, of Folkestone.

"WALKING WITH BROKEN LEGS."—The "Westminster Gazette" recently described under this heading a "new" splint made by a continental firm, the newness of which was promptly controverted by Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons, of Aldersgate Street, E.C. The splint described consisted of a double support for the limb with special joints and a hardened leather sheath or case, and the "Westminster" thought it a marvellous discovery until it was pointed out that Messrs. Maw, Son & Sons have on their books a customer who has been using a precisely similar contrivance for the past fifteen years. A "Westminster" representative had a chat with the mechanic who actually made the splint, and incidentally he gleaned a lot of interesting information about the historic sundries-house, all of which is detailed in the "Westminster Gazette" for March 9.



## Westminster Wisdom.

(From our Parliamentary Representative.)

### NEW BILLS.

*The Nurses Bill* consists of twenty-five clauses. It proposes to create a "General Council of Nursing Education and Registration of the United Kingdom," the first twelve clauses being devoted to the constitution of this body. The Council is to keep a register of nurses, and regulate the education and examination of nurses. Persons of twenty-one who have had three years' experience as nurses are to be registered without examination up to two years after the commencement of the Act, which is to prohibit persons taking or using the title of registered nurse or its equivalent, but nothing in the Act confers authority to practise medicine, or to undertake the treatment or care of disease.

*The Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill*, referred to a Select Committee of the House of Lords, is prefaced by a long memorandum. The Bill consists of eleven clauses and a schedule. It proposes to make the metric standards of weight and of measure mentioned in the 1897 Act the imperial standards after April 5, 1906, or such date as the Privy Council may decide. Clauses 3 to 7 deal with the requisite executive power for carrying the proposal into force. Clause 8 is the most important next to actual compulsory usage. It provides—

(1) References to imperial weights and measures in any Order, by-law, rule, regulation, deed, written contract, or agreement, or other instrument or writing made before the Act and in force when it passes, shall be construed as references to the respective equivalents in metric terms.

(2) Every bargain, sale, or oral contract or agreement shall be similarly dealt with.

### THE GOVERNMENT PHARMACY BILL.

It is understood that the Pharmacy Bill which is to be brought forward by the Government at an early date will be introduced in the House of Lords, and will probably be in charge of Lord Selkirk. The Bill is the outcome of the report of Sir Herbert Maxwell's Committee, which considered the whole question some time ago; and one of the points now engaging the attention of the Government is the desirability of prohibiting a firm, co-partnership, or company from carrying on the business of a pharmaceutical chemist in the dispensing of medicines or the compounding of poisons unless the directors thereof are qualified persons.

### MR. LOUGH'S BILL.

The Bill, which has already been introduced into the House of Commons, stands for second reading on Monday next. Four members—Mr. Joseph Devlin, Mr. George Harwood, Mr. Alexander Cross, and Sir Mark Stewart—have already given notice of their intention to move its rejection, and the possibility of its obtaining a second reading are very remote.

### SIR MARK STEWART ON THE BILL.

Sir Mark Stewart, one of the opponents of Mr. Lough's Bill, stated in the Lobby that he is moving the rejection of the Bill purely on agricultural grounds and in the agricultural interest. The hon. baronet says he is afraid that the effect of the Bill will be to make artificial manures dearer. Sir Mark also regards the proposal to require all directors of drug selling chemists to be qualified by examination as nonsensical.

### WHAT MR. CROSS SAYS.

Mr. Alexander Cross, another of the four members who have given notice of their intention to move the rejection of the Bill, in the course of a special interview, said:

The whole gist of the Bill is contained in the seventh and eleventh clauses. All the rest need not be discussed. There can be no doubt that in Clause 7 is to be found the true *raison-d'être* of the whole Bill. That clause is directed against the retailing and dispensing of medical prescriptions by joint-stock companies. These companies, no doubt, are thorns in the flesh of the pharmaceutical chemists. They have supplied good drugs at cheap prices. They have beaten down the monopoly, and there are hundreds of them which have established great businesses with many branches. Moreover, they have been a great utility to the public in these respects. In fact, so important a figure are they

in the trade that it has become necessary to check their operations, and so it is sought to be enacted that unless the business of these companies shall be managed by directors, all of whom are registered persons under the Pharmacy Act, the carrying on of these businesses shall be rendered unlawful. Whatever pretensions may be put forward in justification of this clause, it cannot be pretended (went on Mr. Cross) that it is conceived in the interests of the public. The public are not at all concerned with the persons who are directors, sitting in the board-room upstairs managing the business of these joint-stock drug companies. The public protection would be obtained by insisting that the actual salesman who compounds the drugs shall be a qualified person. The directors upstairs may all be qualified under all the colleges in the country, and yet if they employ unqualified persons to dispense the drugs at the public counter below the public risk would remain the same. The public interest consists in having their prescriptions dispensed by qualified persons at the counter. They are not at all concerned as to whether the capital and general direction of the concern are joint-stock or otherwise, or whether the persons directly are qualified by the Pharmaceutical Society or by any other body. The Bill, in fact, is just another of those attempts, which unfortunately the Pharmaceutical Society have been putting forward with the object of still further stringently limiting the number of persons who are to be permitted to sell drugs. They do this under the specious plea of public safety, but for the real purpose of perpetuating and increasing their monopoly. Let the public understand, once and for all, that if this Bill passes into law, all these drug-stores, joint-stock companies, and new developments of the drug trade, which have been of such service to them—conducted by persons upon commercial principles, employing assistants who are properly qualified, and which has, in fact, been meeting a great public want—would be all closed up. One need not prophesy what the result would be upon the public interest.

The Bill, of course, awakens the very controversy which created so much interest last year, and which still creates widespread interest, amongst gardeners, horticulturists, and agriculturists, which arose out of a claim which the Pharmaceutical Society put forward that they and their members alone should be entitled to sell in retail all the various articles which are now necessities of the horticultural and agricultural trades, although they come under the category of poisons. These articles are developments of science, invented and brought into use subsequent to the passing of the Pharmacy Act. The authors of that Act could never have contemplated a state of affairs such as we have now, when these articles have become of commercial importance, and necessary to be obtained as materials for the trade by the above industries. The [? 1858] Pharmacy Bill really had for its object the protection of the public in the dispensing of medicines. No one questions the desirability of some restriction in this direction, but it is a wholly different matter when a society, growing fat in its monopoly, seeks to tax at its inordinate scale of profits the material required by horticulturists and farmers, and even to exclude reasonable, proper, and necessary competition which the creation of the joint-stock companies has introduced into the drug-trade to the great advantage of the public.

### PUBLIC VACCINATIONS.

Mr. Weir asked the President of the Local Government Board on Monday if he could state how the amount of fees paid to public vaccinators by the various Boards of Guardians since the passing of the Act of 1898 compared with the cost of vaccinations prior to the passing of the Act. Mr. Walter Long, in his reply, said the total number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations performed by public vaccinators in the four years ended at Lady Day, 1899, was 1,370,897, and the average amount of the fee per case was 2s. 2d. In the four years ended at Lady Day, 1903, the total number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations performed by public vaccinators had risen to 3,197,192, and the average amount of the fee per case was rather less than 5s. 10d. The President of the Local Government Board explained that the substitution of the system of domiciliary vaccination under the Vaccination Act, 1898, for vaccination at fixed stations, and the requirement that the operation should be performed with antiseptic dressings, had greatly increased the demand upon the time of the public vaccinators, and higher fees had consequently to be paid. A Departmental Committee, however, he added, was at present inquiring into the subject of vaccination-fees.

### THE EFFECT OF PLAGUE-SERUM.

In reply to Mr. Weir, Mr. Brodick stated that the percentage of persons inoculated with plague-serum in India who subsequently died was about 0.24. The Government of India had lately taken steps to secure a more accurate record for the future.



## Patent Medicine Vendors and Drug-store Keepers' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Wednesday afternoon, March 16, Mr. W. Huntrods (Leeds) in the chair. Amongst those present were Mr. W. T. Leggett (Hon. Secretary), Mr. A. Guess (Leeds), Mr. Chambers (Bolton), Councillor Whittaker (Clayton-le-Moors), Mr. Bland (Burnley), Mr. Lee (Stalybridge), Mr. Clapham (Manchester), Mr. Woods (Liverpool), Mr. C. Crompton (Bury), and Mr. Richmond (Bury). The object of the meeting was to consider

### THE PHARMACY BILL,

and, after a few remarks from the Chairman, Mr. W. T. Leggett addressed the meeting at considerable length. They had met, he said, to discuss one of the most sweeping measures ever submitted to Parliament, under the name of the Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill. He considered the conditions upon which the drug-trade is ruled in this country to be unjust, and now and then even tyrannical; yet the promoters of the Bill were trying to secure the monopoly of the drug-trade on the specious plea that all medicines containing the most minute quantity of poison were only to be sold by qualified pharmacists. The registered chemists want to secure for themselves a monopoly. They want to prevent anybody but a qualified chemist from selling well-known simple remedies which their grandfathers sold forty or fifty years ago. Members of the Association they represented that day, who had served an apprenticeship of the good old sort—not of three years, but of seven—and who had been engaged in it for twenty, twenty-five, or thirty years, were now to be prevented from selling simple remedies, which used to be sold by booksellers, grocers, and drug dealers, and others without any danger, but to the benefit of the public, and yet the would-be monopolists pretended that it was for the benefit of the public that they sought to carry the Bill into law. The late Lord Mayor of Liverpool, in a letter to the speaker twelve months ago, said it was never intended by Act of Parliament that the sale of a number of simple medicines which might contain a minute quantity of poison should be restricted to certain persons, and the rest who did sell them treated as criminals. The Act of 1868 was never intended to have that effect. Mr. George Harwood, M.P. for Bolton, had blocked this new Bill, and appeared to be under the impression that it would affect the sale of Coddle's pills and patent medicines. It would not affect the sale of Coddle's pills, but it would affect the sale of Mrs. Winslow's soothing-syrup. Mr. Leggett proceeded to quote from and criticise THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, saying that the Bill would prevent them exercising the knowledge which many of them had paid premiums to acquire. They had built up businesses with their technical knowledge and industry, which were sought to be taken away from them, and he asked them, "Were they going to take it lying down?" (Cries of "No.") He then dealt with the Privy Council's Poisons Committee, which, he said, showed that chemists are the greatest sinners so far as the safety of the public is concerned. The real cause of the Bill, he continued, is the opening of drug-stores, which had enabled the people to buy drugs at reasonable prices. Mr. Leggett next referred to the "astounding concession," and read a number of letters he had received bearing on the question, and quoted cases of hardship to dispensers and others who would be deprived of their privileges and occupation by the new Bill if it became law.

The Chairman said those who came to the meeting lukewarm would go away with a feeling of enthusiasm. They were all deeply interested in what Mr. Leggett had said, and greatly indebted to him for his labours on their behalf during the last eleven years. They had been dispensing simple medicines for thirty years, and yet the Pharmaceutical Society would take away that part of their business, which was no small part.

Mr. A. Guess (Leeds) said it seemed to him that the Pharmaceutical Society had got the idea that they had all the brains and all the law in the country on their side, and that consequently they could do as they liked with such as belonged to that Association and those who happened to be

inferior to them on the points brought before the meeting; but they were there that day to disabuse them of that opinion, and the way to do it was to stick together and to work together to defeat that object. He was apprenticed to the trade of a chemist, and his father paid 100% premium; but his master, although a pharmaceutical chemist, neglected to teach him the theory to enable him to go through the Minor examination of the Pharmaceutical Society. He was now in the position of a dispenser of an immense amount of poisons, working for a gentleman who had the privilege of putting his name up as a chemist and druggist, but for what reason he did not know. He had sold, regularly, three 6-oz. bottles of laudanum a week to two individuals only, for their own consumption. He had sold laudanum to a man in one case who poisoned himself with it, but he was never questioned as to whether he was a qualified man. His employer was all right, and he (the speaker) was all right. (Laughter.)

The Chairman asked for a definition of a "medical prescription," but no very definite answer was forthcoming. The Chairman said if the Act was passed the Pharmaceutical Society would soon define what was a medical prescription.

A speaker said the Bill had been craftily worded. Another thought the question of "bottle" for the sale of poisons was of more importance than the dispensing of it. Several were of opinion that the Government should take the matter out of the hands of pharmacists altogether. The police, and not the Pharmaceutical Society, should be the prosecutors.

Several resolutions were adopted, and, votes of thanks having been passed to Mr. Leggett and the Chairman, steps were taken to form a local branch of the Society.

## Chemical Society.

A MEETING was held on Wednesday, March 16, Dr. W. A. Tilden, F.R.S., presiding. The first paper, communicated by Dr. Ray, of the Presidency College, Calcutta, was read by Dr. Divers. It dealt with

### MERCURIC NITRITE AND ITS DECOMPOSITION BY HEAT.

The nitrite was prepared by the addition of silver nitrite to mercuric chloride and evaporation of the filtrate under reduced pressure. It is a colourless, crystalline substance, which, when heated, is converted into mercurous nitrite with the evolution of nitric oxide. When treated with water the salt is decomposed with the formation of mercuric oxide. Dr. Divers took the opportunity of once more pointing out that nitric acid has no action upon the noble metals unless it contains small quantities of nitrous acid, and that the formation of nitrates of these metals is in reality due to the joint action of the two acids. In his remarks on the paper, the President gently chaffed Dr. Divers on this particular hobby, and endeavoured to convince him that there are several other equally acceptable explanations of this reaction.

### GLYCERYL LEAD OLEATES.

These interesting compounds were described by Dr. Hannay, who obtained them by the solution of lead carbonate in various triglycerides isolated from a number of vegetable oils. They are amorphous, waxy substances containing three atoms of lead, each of which serves as a junction between the alkyl and an acyl radical. The formation of these compounds is, the author believes, the explanation of the action of "driers" such as litharge on drying oils.

After papers by Dr. Chattaway and Mr. W. H. Lewis, Dr. Silberrad, and Mr. Pollok, one on

### A NEW SESQUITERPENE FROM OIL OF LIMES,

by Messrs. Burgess and Page, was read. The authors have investigated concentrated oil of limes, and find that the oxygenated portion of this oil consists principally of *l*-terpineol and an odoriferous isomeride of this. It also contains a new sesquiterpene of the olefinic type, which gives a colour-reaction with sulphuric acid in presence of acetic acid resembling that given by cadinene, and furnishes a well-crystallised trihydrochloride. This new sesquiterpene, which the authors have named "limene," also occurs in lemon oil, and probably in other oils derived from citrus species.





TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

#### Sulphur Lotum.

SIR,—I have been familiar with this term since the first days of my apprenticeship, and it occurs in most of our older pharmacopœias and dispensaries, but I have never heard or seen it used as a synonym for sulphur præcipitatum. Its English equivalent, "washed sulphur," is in Squire, under "Sulphur sublimatum," with references to many foreign pharmacopœias, in which terms of the same significance are found in the same position. Sulphur lotum, in fact, denotes, and appears always to have denoted, washed sublimed sulphur. This is by no means the same thing as precipitated sulphur. The old term for the "washed" article was *flores sulphuris loti*. Brookes (1773) says of it: "This operation [washing] renders the flowers milder by washing off an acidity, and prevents their griping when taken internally."

Yours, &c.,

C. C. BELL.

Epworth, March 12.

SIR,—Kindly allow me to point out that sulphur lotum and sulph. præcip. are not identical. The following formula from the Dublin Pharmacopœia, 1826, is given in Redwood's "Supplement" published in 1857:

Pour hot water on sublimed sulphur, and repeat the washing as long as the effused water appears contaminated with acid. This is to be determined by litmus. Dry the sulphur on bibulous paper.

I have not seen the preparation for many years, but I distinctly remember it as a very fine, dry, mobile, yellow powder, with no tendency to cake together like sulph. præcip.

Yours faithfully,

R. T. CLARKE.

131 Milton Road, Gravesend, March 12.

SIR,—I cannot agree with Dr. McWalter's statement that sulph. præcip. should be used when sulphur lotum is ordered. Sulphur *per se* is sublimed sulphur, and sulphur lotum is washed sublimed sulphur, and was official under this name in the P.L.; it figures in the Codex as "soufre sublimé lavé." The washing was only intended to remove free acid, so that the acid-free subl. sulph. of the present B.P. may be used when s. lotum is ordered. With reference to his remark that the term is not included in our "Dictionary of Synonyms," I may say that it was not overlooked; it was discussed, but finally omitted as no satisfactory synonym or equivalent could be found; a mere translation would not have advanced matters.

#### THE COMPILER OF ROUSE'S "DICTIONARY OF SYNONYMS."

61 Charlotte Street, W.

SIR,—Dr. J. C. McWalter is in error in describing "sulphur lotum" as a synonym for sulphur præcipitatum. Sulphur lotum is sulphur sublimatum or flowers of sulphur B.P. 1898. The following are the authorities who describe sulphur lotum as washed sublimed sulphur: London Pharmacopœia, 1824; Dublin Pharmacopœia, 1823; Hooper's "Lexicon Medicum," seventh edition; Codex Medicamentarius (Pharmacopœe Française), Paris, 1884; United States Pharmacopœia, 1890; Gray's "Supplement to the Pharmacopœia," 1847; Beasley's "Pocket Formulary," tenth edition.

Yours faithfully,

Hitchin, March 14.

H. JOHN HENDERSON.

[We have received several other replies to the same effect.—EDITOR.]

#### A Little List.

"Some one ought surely to be keeping a careful record of the deaths we too frequently read of traceable to incompetent or unsystematic compounding."

SIR,—The above is quoted from "Xrayser's" page of last week. This idea has occurred to me frequently. I received

information a year or two ago to the effect that a brief summary of the cases of this kind which took place within two months, sent to one of the great journals, produced a powerful editorial in favour of qualified dispensing. No argument is so powerful in any discussion as a plain statement of facts. A list of this kind kept carefully for one year would make reading which would stagger every editor in the country and bring Parliament to its knees. It would have to be kept with absolute impartiality. All poisoning accidents would have to be included, with full particulars whether qualified men were involved or not. In this case chemists would start with a heavy handicap, but I am sure they would emerge triumphant. The handicap would consist in this: that no case in which a chemist is involved can be concealed, whereas cases occurring outside the qualified zone which are never heard of are most probably more numerous than those that are reported. As things are at present, the Pharmacy Acts constitute practically no safeguard to the people. Not more than 10 per cent. of the dispensing of medicines in this country is done by qualified men. The other 90 per cent. is done by anybody, right down to housemaids and grooms. The Pharmacy Acts will never serve any good purpose to the people until they are administered in letter and spirit. In that case no person or persons will be allowed to keep open shop for dispensing to the general public unless qualified, and all institutions, such as the army, navy, and infirmaries, must either provide themselves with qualified dispensers or secure the services of qualified dispensers for so many hours a day. There are evidences that members of Parliament are beginning to grasp these facts. We have right and sense and reason all on our side, and twenty years after now I have no doubt we or our successors will look back on the present crude state of pharmacy law with amusement and compassion.

Dumfries, March 15.

JAMES REID.

#### North Staffs and the Pharmacy Bill.

Mr. Edmund Jones, of Hanley, informs us that the subjoined letter has been sent to each of the members of Parliament of the Potteries Division:

North Staffordshire Chemists' Association,  
Stoke-on-Trent, March 16, 1904.

#### Re PHARMACY BILL.

DEAR SIR,—We would respectfully call your attention to the above "Bill," which was introduced by Mr. Thos. Lough, M.P. for W. Islington, and read a first time on February 29th.

The main objects of the "Bill" are:

- (1) To put companies on the same footing as individuals; that is to say, that what is illegal for an individual shall also be illegal for a number of individuals.
- (2) To prevent multiplication of branch shops, either by individuals or companies, unless under qualified personal management.
- (3) To prevent the formation of bogus companies by compelling all the directors to be qualified chemists.

Briefly, our grievance as chemists is that, after being compelled to pass statutory examinations for qualification and registration, an unqualified or a number of unqualified persons can assume the title of chemist as a limited-liability company.

May we hope that you will see your way to give your support to the "Bill" in its subsequent stages through the House?

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

(Signed) JOHN AVERILL, J.P., President.  
WM. OLDHAM, J.P. (Burslem), } Vice-  
T. C. CORNWELL (Hanley), } Presidents.  
WESTON POOLE (Newcastle), Treasurer.  
THOS. BENTLEY (Stoke), Assistant-Secretary.  
EDMUND JONES (Hanley), Hon. Secretary.

#### East Dorset and the Pharmacy Bill.

SIR,—On a vacancy arising in the above constituency I sent copies of the Pharmacy Bill to both the Liberal and Unionist candidates with a covering letter asking for their support and vote if elected. Mr. Van Raalte soon replied, assuring me of "his intention to support it if elected." Mr. Lyell I could not get any reply from; but after repeated attempts his agent sent me a letter saying "he would endeavour to get a reply from him at an early date." Not having received it on Monday morning, as the day of election was drawing so near I telephoned to the agent, but got no satisfactory reply, so I sent him a note giving until 6 P.M.



for a definite reply, failing that I should communicate with every chemist in the constituency, and ask them to give their support to the Unionist candidate, Mr. C. van Raalte. Although the time is so short since sending the candidates' replies to my brother chemists, I have already received five promises and only one refusal in the whole constituency.

Yours faithfully,

Poole, March 16.

H. AYRE.

## Dispensing Notes.

### Lanolin-and-Glycerin Creams.

In the first issue of this year, page 26, we printed two prescriptions from *Unguentum* which we reproduce in the first column here, the second being modifications which produce excellent creams *sec. art.*:

1.		1.	
Lanolin. hydrosi	... 3iij.	Lanolin. hydrosi	... 3iij.
Glycerin.	... 3iij.	Glycer. amyli	... 3iv.
Amyli	... 3j.	Amyli	... 3ss.
Hydrarg. oleatis (10		Hydrarg. oleat. (10 per	
per cent.)	... 3j.	cent.)	... 3j.
Acid. salicylic.	... 3j.	Acid. salicylic.	... 3j.
Ol. rosæ	... q.s.	Ol. rosæ	... q.s.
M. Ft. ung.		M.S.A.	
2.		2.	
Lanolini	... 3j.	Lanolini	... 3j.
Glycerin.	... 3viss.	Glyc. amyli	... 3j.
Amyli	... 3iss.	Amyli	... 3ss.
Acid. salicylic.	... 3j.	Hydrarg. oleat. (20 per	
Liq. picis carb.	... 3j.	cent.)	... 3ij.
Hydrarg. oleatis (20		Acid. salicylic.	... 3j.
per cent.)	... 3ij.	Liq. picis carb.	... 3j.
Ol. ros. geran.	... q.s.	Ol. ros. ger.	... q.s.
M. Ft. ung.		M.S.A.	

### A Butyl-chloral Mixture.

SIR,—What is the best way of making a decent mixture of the subjoined? We have tried dissolving the butyl chloral in S.V.R. and in glycerin, but a nasty deposit is formed almost as soon as the two solutions are mixed; leaving out the acid and suspending the quinine makes a good miscible mixture, but what is wanted is a clear solution.

Butyl. chloral. hydrat.	...	gr. x.
S.V.R. ...	...	q.s.
Tr. gelsemii	...	℥xv.
Quinine sulphat.	...	gr. iiss.
Acid. sulph. dil.	...	q.s.
Aq. ad ...	...	3ss.

M.

Yours faithfully,

NEMO. (39/13.)

[A clear solution cannot be made of this, and if the butyl chloral hydrate is dissolved in spirit it forms sooner or later the alcoholate, which is deposited in drops when added to water. The best plan is to omit the spirit, mix the powders with 15 minims of mucilage and  $\frac{1}{2}$  dr. of water, then add the tincture and the rest of the water. The prescriber's permission should be obtained for the change.]

## Legal Queries.

Labels to be marked "Liable" or "Not liable" to medicine stamp-duty should be sent to the Editor in duplicate and with a stamped and addressed envelope for return of the marked ones.

73/68. *Erin*.—Your apprentice having voluntarily broken the contract, you are not legally bound to take him back.

73/59 *Country*.—The published formula-number may be written (or printed) on labels.

67/24. *E. W. B.*—Neither the nervine-essence nor the chemical-food label is liable.

57/51. *Gyppo*.—If cinchona-wine contains less than 1 gr. of alkaloids per ounce a wine-licence is necessary to sell it.

80/58. *Senex* puts the following questions: (1) Throat-lozenges, made from vendor's formula, stamped with his name, but no exclusive claim made. Are they liable to duty? [No.] (2) Cough-lozenges, manufacturer's formula, only active ingredient known to vendor, but stamped with his name. Are they liable? [Yes, on and after March 31 if sold in an enclosure as cough-lozenges, and so labelled, subject, however, to the provisions of Exemption 3.]

79/67. *Liza*.—You cannot throw over your apprentice half-way through because you have sold your business. He is entitled to decline to serve the rest of the time with your successor, and to be compensated by you if you do not complete your part of the bargain.

79/14. *Caput*.—(1) A single powder used not to be considered dutiable, but it is now. (2) Teething is an ailment according to the Board of Inland Revenue. They told us so, and we published the fact last November.

73/66 *Damiana*.—If you can make an entire drug into a pill without mixing it with anything, it will come under Exemption 2. See *C. & D. Diary*.

81/6. *Query*.—"Toothache-paste" will be a dutiable title on March 31. You at present advertise one as "unsurpassed for decayed teeth; destroys the nerve, and stops all pain instantly." That makes your paste liable, and prevents you enjoying Exemption 3; but you may put up, say, "Toothache-jelly, 'Pharmaceutical Formulas,' No. 3," and recommend it.

81/42 *W. A.*—"Tonic pills" is not a dutiable title. Reference to the index of "Pharmaceutical Formulas," Vol. II., gives such information at a glance.

74/55. *R. K.*—"The Unequalled Ointment" by itself is not a dutiable title.

75/5 *Study*.—None of the titles is liable. See index of "Pharmaceutical Formulas," Vol. II.

24/90. *Subs*.—It is not easy to suggest a non-dutiable title for gout and rheumatic pills, the composition of which is unknown to us. If they contain colchicum, you might call them "Compound colchicum-pills."

69/40—*N. E. M.*—Similar cases have arisen, and the Board have been satisfied with the proof of qualification of the actual owner.

59/70. *H. A. M.*—The following label is liable, subject to Exemption 3:

CHILDREN'S NOURISHING-TONIC.

Contains the Compound Syrup of Phosphates, combined with the Finest Malt-extract.

To be given to children as a restorative after all wasting diseases—Influenza, Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, &c.

The italicised portion of the label is a sufficient disclosure.

57/23. *Osmene*.—An "off" wine-retailer must sell in pint or quart bottles only, and less than 2 gals. or one dozen reputed quarts at one time. See our *Diary*, page 299.

55/5. *S. T. H.*—(1) It is not proposed to amend the Pharmacy Act so as to prevent unqualified persons selling drugs which are not poisons. (2) "Medical hall" is not protected under the Pharmacy Act.

80/12. *Quinine*.—Your quinine and-iron-tonic label is liable (but subject to Exemption 3), as it says "purifies ... the blood." The other label is not liable.

81/11. *Enquirer*.—(1) There are nine formulas for back-ache and kidney pills in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 128, and any person who benefits by Exemption 3 may sell any of them unstamped with the reference—*e.g.*, "Pharmaceutical Formulas," No. 3. In no case has the original or first vendor of any of the nine pills made them liable to stamp duty (2) A medicine brought under Exemption 3 by disclosure may be recommended as beneficial for the prevention, cure, or relief of human ailments. See *C. & D. Diary*, pages 292-3 for full particulars.



77/35. *Sphinx*.—A salicylic plaster containing 40 per cent. of the acid is not an entire drug. It is mixed with 60 per cent. of something else.

80/33. *G. R.*—Your lot of labels has been received as a solid mass, which has taken some time to separate. The only one liable is that for colocynth or Dr. Gregory's pills, which is brought within Exemption 3 by adding B.P. Do you expect us to buy a bottle of Rimmel's vinegar in order to tell whether the label is liable or not?

77/49. *Sharp Practice* got a carpenter to fix a wooden ceiling to an outhouse of which he (S. P.) was tenant. Before he (S. P.) paid the carpenter the latter bought the outhouse from the landlord, telling him (S. P.) he would make an allowance. S. P. has since paid the account in full, the carpenter declining to make a reduction. Can S. P. recover or claim the material? [He cannot get the ceiling, which is a fixture and belongs to the landlord. He can get an allowance if he can prove to the satisfaction of a court that the carpenter made a promise; but that is an unlikely event.]

### Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

70/27. *G. T. D.*—The short article on embalming was given in the *C. & D.*, July 25, 1896. That number is, however, out of print, so we cannot send it as desired.

12/3. *Ajax*.—We must have full particulars of each sample submitted to us before we can judge whether the report of an analysis is likely to be of general interest.

68/24. *J. I.*—The discoloration of the water-glass solution can be neglected as far as the egg-preserving properties of the liquid are concerned.

71/51. *Delta*.—Teething-syrup, to be rubbed on the infant's gums—

Tr. hyoscyami	...	...	...	3ss.
Tr. anthemidis	...	...	...	5j.
Syrupi anisi	...	...	...	3ss.
Glycerini	...	...	...	3iiss.

M.

65/25. *Paraffin*.—Your inquiry as to the relative quantities of oil used in a lamp with the wick turned up to its fullest capacity and only half turned up, and which you are assured consume identically the same quantity of oil in the same time, reminds us of the anecdote of Charles II. and the Royal Society. The "Merry Monarch" asked the learned members of the Society why it is that there is no increase in the weight of a vessel of water when a live fish is put in the water? The question was fiercely debated without a satisfactory explanation until someone suggested that the non-increase in weight should be experimentally shown, and then, of course, it dawned on the members that they were arguing on false premises. Is not it the same in your case? At least, you should make the experiment before asking us what is the theory involved.

56/8. *B. T. H.*—Medical Preliminary—The pharmaceutical Preliminary examination you passed is of no avail for registration as either a dental or medical student. Consult the information in the last Educational Number of the *C. & D.* (August 15, 1903) as to what examinations are acceptable.

67/33. *H. G.*—Gadd's "Synopsis of the B.P." is published by Baillière, Tindall & Cox, at 1s.

67/32. *Uric*.—(1) Consult the *C. & D. Diary*, 1903, for sciatica specialists. (2) Book on Venereal Diseases.—Hayden's "Venereal Diseases," 7s. 6d. (Kimpton).

68/71. *Heron*.—Gentian has no such action on the uterus of cows, as your customer suggests. It is probably a confusion of ideas on the customer's part.

66/55. *Salol*.—Imitation Ground Glass.—If the Epsom-salts method is unsuitable you should use either (1) a chloroform solution of gutta-percha, (2) a photographic ground-glass varnish, or (3) daub the glass over with a pad made by tying a piece of putty in muslin.

57/33. *Vermin*—Parasiticide for Cattle.—It is not advisable to use hydrarg. perchlor. for this purpose when stavesacre, tobacco, or soluble creosote answer quite as well. Stavesacre requires to be used in the proportion of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. to a gallon of water and the solution well brushed into the coat of the animal with a hard brush. See also "Veterinary Counter-practice."

66/33. *Basil*.—(1) Spoilt Quinine-mixture.—The only thing we can suggest to restore the mixture is to shake it with a small quantity of ferric peroxide. (2) Charges for Medical Dispensing—These were last given in the *C. & D. Diary* for 1900, page 274, or more recently in the *C. & D.*, December 6, 1902, page 957. (3) Thanks for your appreciative remarks about the *C. & D.*

69/58. *A. O.*—Fire-proofing Cloth.—The recognised method is to soak the cloth in a solution of sodium tungstate. The chief difficulty is to get the salt well into the fibre of the material. One method, which is patented (see *C. & D.*, May 31, 1902, page 851), is by precipitating aluminium tungstate in the fabric, but the result from the use of sodium tungstate alone is quite satisfactory if the cloth is not washed.

70/28. *Prevention*.—Fumigation with sulphur is the best method of disinfecting a room that has been tenanted by a consumptive person. This is managed by burning sulphur in the room, taking care to guard against risk of fire.

70/73. *Delta*.—Arabian Oil.—Is not this a synonym for tr. myrrh. co.? Will some subscriber correct us if we are wrong?

64/11. *J. M.* sends us an order which he lately received for "1 oz. morphia. What is the dose for sleeplessness?" The note was from a board-school teacher, and shows effectually what a protection the Pharmacy Acts are to the public.

65/68. *Pueritia*.—Amber with a suggestion of green is the correct colour of camphorated oil.

73/39. *G. A. G.*—Books on Domestic Medicine.—Thomson & Steele's "Dictionary of Domestic Medicine," 10s. 6d. (Griffin); Walter's "The Home Doctor," 2s. 6d. (Sonnenschein); Cassell's "Family Physician," 21s. (Cassell).

63/51. *A. P.*—Instruction in Refraction.—See reply to "R. B." (72/28).

72/28. *R. B.*—Optical Instruction.—Refer to *C. & D.*, February 13, page 282. The new syllabus of the Spectacle-makers' Company is now to be had, and will give you the particulars of the new examination in sight-testing.

65/32. *J. H. W.*—A strong ammoniacal solution of pyrogallol is a suitable dye for the dog's tail. Silver-nitrate solution would not be so suitable, as the animal would probably lick off the dye. Phenylenediamine solution, followed by peroxide of hydrogen, is effectual, but is apt to cause an eczema of the skin.

70/71. *Hamamelis*.—The answers to your queries had to be held over owing to pressure of space. The number of "Winter Session" reports we have published promise to make a record this year.

### Information Wanted.

Postcard replies to any of the subjoined inquiries will be esteemed.

81/21. Who are the makers of Mould's golden lotion?

16/3. As to a smoking-pipe for use against sea-sickness.



## Trade Report.

**NOTICE TO BUYERS.**—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

### 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: March 17.

At the auctions of first-hand drugs there was a dull tone and a large proportion of the goods was bought in. Cape aloes declined by about 2s. 6d., and Curaçao sold at steady prices. Sumatra benzoin was quiet, but firmly held; while for buchu-leaves no demand was shown. Cardamoms met with good competition, and prices advanced 1d. to 2d. per lb. Ipeacuanha was quiet in auction, but privately there has been a large business in Rio at again dearer rates. Rhubarb sold at full prices; and grey Jamaica sarsaparilla was firmly held. Outside of the drug-auctions the principal alteration has been an advance in quinine by one German maker, consequent on the small bark-shipments. Hypophosphites have advanced 2d. to 3d. per lb. Cod-liver oil has been in more demand, and prices of Norwegian have risen considerably. Senega is rather lower; and cannabis indica is dearer. A meeting of the Glycerin Convention was held this week, but it was agreed to make no alteration in the chemically pure. At the small cinchona-sale held on Tuesday prices were steady, and the unit remained unaltered. The subjoined table shows the principal alterations of the week:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Cannabis indica Cardamoms Hypophosphites Iodol Oil, cod-liver Wax, paraffin	Quinine	Potashes Soda nitrate	Aloes, Cape Balsam copaiba (Mar.) Ginger Senega Wax, Japanese

**ACIDS.**—The stronger position of galls generally tends to make the prices of gallic, tannic, and pyrogallic acids firm. Gallic is quoted at from 1s. 8½d. to 1s. 9d. per lb., according to quantity, and Tannic B.P. at 1s. 9d. Pyrogallic is obtainable at 7s. per lb.

**CALUMBA.**—There is a scarcity of medium quality, but common grades offer cheaply. Washed medium has been sold at 37s. 6d. per cwt.

**CAMPHOR.**—English refiners are still holding out for full prices, quoting 4s. 3d. per lb. for small quantities of bells. Some second-hand holders, however, seem rather anxious for business, and quote several pence below this figure. From Hamburg 330s. per cwt., c.i.f. London, has been quoted this week for German bells, and in Japanese tablets business has been done at 3s. 4d. per lb. net on the spot for ¼ oz. In auction several parcels of Japanese tablets, assorted sizes, were bought in at 3s. 6d.

According to statistics which have been issued by the Board of Trade, the exports from Japan during the twelve months ending December were as follows:

	1901	1902	1903
Kin ...	4,165,757	3,953,211	3,985,364
Yen ...	3,905,000	3,405,000	3,538,000
	[Kin = 13 lbs. Yen = 2s. 0½d.]		

**CANNABIS INDICA** has advanced 3d. per lb., 4s. 3d. being now the price to buy.

**CINCHONA.**—At auction on Tuesday the moderate quantity of 1,178 packages were offered, of which rather more than half were sold at previous London sales rates, the average unit being 1½d. per lb. The bark contained about 2,000 kilos. quinine.

The following table shows the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:

	Lbs.
The American and Italian factories ...	35,203
The Frankfort and Stuttgart factories ...	23,063
The Brunswick factory ...	11,275
Messrs. Howards & Sons ...	7,112
The Mannheim and Amsterdam factories ...	1,470
Druggists, &c. ...	10,867

Total quantity sold ... 93,990  
Bought in or withdrawn ... 89,461

Total quantity offered ... 183,451

The following table shows the amount of bark offered and sold:

	Packages Offered	Packages Sold
South American cinchona ...	448	of which 225
East Indian cinchona ...	377	" 175
African cinchona ...	169	" 149
Java cinchona ...	152	" 74
Ceylon cinchona ...	32	" 27
	1,178	650

The prices paid were as follows:

**CEYLON.**—Succirubra red chips and shavings, 2½d. to 2¾d. Hybrid quilly chips, 3½d.

**EAST INDIAN.**—Natural stem chips and shavings, 3½d. to 3¾d.; branch, 2½d. Officialis, fair stem chips, partly renewed, 3½d. to 4d.; good branch, 4d. to 4½d.; fair quill, 5½d. Ledgeriana, stem chips, 5½d.; chips and branch, 3½d. per lb.

**JAVA.**—Ledgeriana branch, 8½d. Succirubra root at 7½d. to 8½d.; good Ledgeriana branch 8½d.; Hybrid branch, 5½d. to 6½d.; ordinary small chips, 2½d.

**AFRICAN.**—Fair quill, 5d. to 5½d.; and broken, 4½d. to 4¾d.

**SOUTH AMERICAN.**—Bolivian cultivated quill, 5½d. to 6½d.; good, 7½d.; rich, 9½d.; broken quill, 5½d. to 5¾d.; and flat, 1s. 3d. per lb.

The exports from Java during the first half of March amounted to 172,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 646,000 Amsterdam lbs. last year, and 365,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1902. During the nine months ending December, 1903 the exports from British India amounted to 844,259 lbs., against 1,193,700 lbs. and 1,193,382 lbs. during the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901 respectively.

**GAMBIER.**—Small sales of Cubes have been made at 36s. per cwt.

**GAMBOGE.**—For good Siam pipe up to 15l. 10s. per cwt. has been paid, and for pickings there has been a good demand. Stock in first hands is now much reduced.

**GLYCERIN.**—A meeting of the Glycerin Association was held in London on Tuesday but it was resolved that no alteration should be made in the price of chemically pure.

**HYPOPHOSPHITES** have advanced about 2d. to 3d. per lb., owing to an understanding having been arrived at between British and foreign manufacturers, who, it is said, are to confine their business to their respective countries. The bottom price for lime is now 1s. 7d., net, and sodium and potassium 1s. 9d. per lb., net.

**IODOL.**—The price has been advanced by about 5s. 6d. per lb.

**OIL, COD-LIVER.**—Much dearer. A sudden demand has sprung up this week, and the market has advanced almost daily. A fair business has been done at from 230s. to 250s. per barrel, c.i.f., for new non-congealing Lofoten oil for prompt shipment, and the market closes with a strong upward tendency. It is said that speculators in Norway who forced prices down have now been compelled to cover their requirements. The advance also appears to have been due to the poor result of the Lofoten fishing, and to the fact that stocks in wholesalers' hands are very low. Newfoundland non-freezing oil is quoted at 230s. per barrel on the spot. Our Bergen correspondent writes on March 12 that owing to the continued poor fishing at the Lofotens, and especially at Sondmore, considerably more interest has been shown in the cod-liver oil market, and with an improvement in the demand



the lowest price is now 220s. per barrel, f.o.b., for finest new non-congealing oil. (See our cablegram for to-day's price.) The exports from Bergen to date amount to 363 barrels, against 669 barrels at the corresponding date of last year.

Writing further on March 14, our Bergen correspondent states that the report from Lofoten is still disheartening, and no sign of improvement is to be noted; from Alesund there is to-day a report of improved fishing. In the coming fortnight it will be decided whether we shall have a total production of ten, fifteen, or twenty thousand barrels of cod-liver oil. The present situation gives no hope of more than fifteen thousand, and my opinion is that the present figures of 210s. to 220s. are still inviting to speculation. [The price has since advanced to 250s.—Ed.]

As formerly reported the quality of the new oil is much better than that of last year's.

**OIL, OLIVE.**—A report from Messina dated February 29 states that the market remains firm in spite of the absence of export orders. The home consumption is absorbing arrivals and prevents prices from declining. The greater part of the olives are being pressed for eating oil. Yellow Messina is quoted 30 $\frac{1}{2}$  5s., greenish 29 $\frac{1}{2}$  15s., burning Russia 32 $\frac{1}{2}$  10s., Gallipoli 30 $\frac{1}{2}$  15s., choice ditto 30 $\frac{1}{2}$  15s. per tun, f.o.b.

**OIL, WOOD.**—Hankow for shipment is quoted 26s. to 23s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cwt., c.i.f.

**OILS, ESSENTIAL.**—*Lemon-grass* oil continues in small supply, holders asking from 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. *Citronell* oil is steady at from 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Small sales of *Star-aniseed* oil have been made at 5s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. spot, and 70 to 75 per cent. c.a. *Cassia* oil has been sold at 2s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., c.i.f. *Sassafras* oil in cases to arrive is quoted at 2s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for genuine. *Wintergreen* oil, in tins, is offered at 6s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

**OLIBANUM.**—Small sales of good pale medium and small drop have been made at 49s. per cwt.

**OPIUM.**—In Turkey descriptions no business has been done, although there is some pressure to sell. Persian is firmly held at 12s. per lb.

**SMYRNA, March 5.**—Another active week has passed, and several buyers have been eager to fulfil their requirements. Sellers have shown rather more reserve, and the market has exhibited a firmer tone. In one or two instances 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per lb. more has been paid for particular grades. As stated in our last report, we have surely reached the lowest prices, and with the present firmness and large demand it would not be surprising to see higher prices established again. The sales for the week amount to 159 cases, and include 65 cases current tale quale, at the equivalent of from 6s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 7s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 26 cases Karahissar tale quale, at 7s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 30 cases choice Karahissar, at 7s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and 38 cases current Yerli, at 7s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., c.i.f. The market closes firm, with buyers, and the arrivals in Smyrna to date amount to 1,892 cases, against 4,340 cases at the same time last year. The supply of choice quality is becoming scarcer every day on the Smyrna market. Reports concerning the new crop continue satisfactory in consequence of the cessation of rains.

**SMYRNA, March 11.**—The market is steady at last week's prices. Buyers, however, not having given way, it may be possible that in a week or ten days the market will find its proper level. We do not mean by this that we expect any further decline, but what we hope for is that sellers will be easier to deal with and more disposed to sell at present low limits. The sales this week amount to only 19 cases.

**POTASHES.**—Still tending easier, at 38s. for first American and 39s. for Montreal.

**POTASSIUM IODIDE.**—A parcel of Japanese has been sold for March-April shipment at 9s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., c.i.f.

**QUICKSILVER.**—The s.s. *Goya* from Seville has arrived with 5,000 flasks.

**QUININE.**—The small bark-shipments from Java for the first half of the month have imparted a firmer tone to the second-hand market, and on Monday small sales of B. & S. and or Brunswick were made on the spot at from 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and July at 1s.; and since then prices have been firm, although no business of importance has been done, sellers quoting spot at 1s. On Wednesday the B. & S. factory advanced their price by  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., but Brunswick is unaltered.

The exports from Germany during the twelve months ending December were as follows:

	1901	1902	1903
Kilos. ... ..	195,400	232,200	197,000
Marks ... ..	8,207,000	8,359,000	7,092,000

**SEEDS.**—Dutch *Caraways* are quoted 20s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 21s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt. for common to fair. *Canary* quiet at 62s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per quarter for Turkish, and 67s. for Mazagén; Spanish is selling at 82s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. *Coriander* slow at 14s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt. *Fenugreek* is still quoted 9s. per cwt., but sales are small. *Linseed* is difficult of sale at 36s. to 40s. per quarter for good to fine.

**SENEGA.**—There are sellers at 3s. per lb. net.

**SHELLAC.**—Owing to the higher prices cabled from Calcutta, the market for futures has advanced considerably, but business has been restricted owing to few sellers. The sales include March delivery at from 204s. to 207s., May at from 198s. to 202s., July at from 199s. to 199s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., August at from 196s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 200s., and October 195s. per cwt. A quiet market has ruled on the spot, with sales of Second Orange TN at full rates, including fair to good TN Orange at from 204s. to 208s. per cwt.

**SOY.**—Business has been done at 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gal., duty-paid, for a good brand.

**SUGAR OF MILK.**—Prices are firmly maintained at from 62s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 65s. per cwt. for finest American powder.

**SULPHUR.**—A Messina report, dated February 29, states that quotations are 1s. lower, owing to the rise in exchange, but as the monopoly slightly increased prices there is practically now no difference. Sulphur from outsiders is offering in small quantities only, but they have little influence on the market. The exports in January were 39,455 tons against 33,508 tons in 1903. The stocks now amount to 362,265 tons, against 346,200 tons in 1903.

### London Drug-auctions.

Owing to the intervening Easter holidays, the next sales will take place a month hence—April 14.

The following table shows the quantity of goods offered and sold:

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
<b>Aloes—</b>			<b>Liquorice-root</b> .....	7	0
Cape .....	43	39	Manaca-root .....	9	0
Curaçao .....	97	36	Menthol .....	11	0
Socotrine .....	10	0	<b>Musk—</b>		
Zanzibar .....	11	11	seed .....	2	0
Angostura-bark ..	2	0	Myrrh .....	20	20
Aniseed .....	41	41	Nux vomica .....	100	100
Annatto-seed .....	55	0	<b>Oil—</b>		
Asafetida .....	68	0	anise, star .....	10	10
<b>Balsam—</b>			cananga .....	12	0
Copaiba .....	12	7	clove .....	1	0
<b>Benzoin—</b>			cod-liver (Newf.) ..	2	0
Palembang .....	5	15	eucalyptus .....	47	0
Sumatra .....	136	13	lime .....	1	1
<b>Boldo-leaves</b> .....	1	0	patchouli .....	2	0
Buchu .....	38	0	peppermint .....	45	10
<b>Camphor—</b>			wood .....	69	0
refined .....	80	0	<b>Olibanum</b> .....	24	24
Canella alba .....	3	0	Orange-peel .....	18	0
Cannabis indica ..	5	*2	Quassia-wood (tons)	25	0
Cardamoms .....	331	198	Quillaia .....	150	0
Castorum .....	2	0	Rhatany .....	8	0
Cloves .....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	Rhubarb .....	16	16
Coca-leaves .....	36	14	English .....	20	20
Colocynth .....	25	0	Saffron .....	5	0
Cubebs .....	40	0	<b>Sarsaparilla—</b>		
Cumin-seed .....	24	0	grey Jamaica .....	13	4
Cuttle-fish bone ..	16	0	Guayaquil .....	9	9
Dragons-blood .....	14	2	Mexican .....	1	1
Elaeterium .....	1	0	Scammony-root ..	75	0
Ergot .....	12	4	Seedlac .....	70	70
Galangal .....	51	0	Senega .....	16	0
Galls .....	7	0	<b>Senna—</b>		
Ginger .....	3	0	Alex. .....	3	0
Gum acacia .....	24	5	Mecca .....	39	0
<b>Honey—</b>			Timnevelly .....	191	191
Californian .....	10	10	Slippery-elm bark ..	2	0
Cuban .....	2	2	Soy .....	30	0
Honolulu .....	150	0	Sticklac .....	4	0
Jamaica .....	42	0	Tamarinds .....	50	0
<b>Ipecacuanha—</b>			Tonka-beans .....	2	0
Cartagena .....	20	0	Turmeric .....	134	0
Minas .....	20	13	<b>Wax (bees')—</b>		
Rio (Matto Grosso)	45	4	East Indian .....	40	0
Jalap .....	35	25	Jamaica .....	4	0
Kino .....	1	1	Zanzibar .....	54	54
Lemon-juice .....	25	0	Wax vegetable (Jap.)	14	14
Lime-juice .....	8	8	Zedoary-root .....	16	0

\* Sold privately.



**ALOES.**—Cape were about 2s. per cwt. lower, fair to good bright hard selling at from 30s. 6d. to 31s., slightly drossy and dull at 27s. to 29s., and a common drossy 23s. Eleven cases of low black skinny Zanzibar sold at 35s. per cwt.; and of Curaçao 97 cases were shown, and partly sold, including good bright liver at 38s., fair ditto 35s. to 35s. 6d., slightly oushish 33s. to 34s., mixed black capey, turning livery, 19s. 6d. to 21s. per cwt. For good stiff pasty Socotrine, in kegs, 70s. was wanted.

**ANISEED.**—Common Russian sold without reserve at 18s.; fair is selling privately at 19s. per cwt.

**ASAFETIDA.**—A new arrival was offered, but the quality consisted of common brown stony block, which was bought in at from 35s. to 45s. per cwt.

**BALSAM COPAIBA.**—Bright pale Para from Liverpool was held at 1s. 4d., cloudy and reddish selling at 1s. 2d. per lb. Five casks of cloudy Maranhão sold at from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d., being lower.

**BENZON.**—Firm. Good almondy Sumatra seconds sold at 7l. 5s., and fair at 6l. per cwt., subject. Five packages of Palembang had been sold privately.

**CARDAMOMS.**—In fair demand, at an advance of 1d. to 2d. per lb., the following prices being paid: Ceylon-Mysore, extra bold pale, picked, 2s. 7d.; good bold pale, long, 2s. to 2s. 3d.; medium to bold pale, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d.; good medium pale, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d.; small and medium pale, 1s. to 1s. 2d.; peas, 8½d. to 10½d.; brown and split and pickings, 8½d. to 10d. *Seeds*, 10d. to 1s. Mangalore, good round pale, partly split, were limited at 2s. 3d.

**COCA-LEAVES.**—Fourteen cases fair to good greenish Ceylon sold at from 1s. to 1s. 3d., and brownish at 10½d. Twenty-two bales of thin greenish Truxillo character were bought in. Privately Truxillo leaves are quoted 11d. per lb.

**CUBEBS.**—Fair quality is obtainable at 35s., at which business has recently been done.

**CUMIN-SEED.**—Maltese seed was limited at 30s., and privately Mogador is quoted 27s., and Maltese 30s. to 32s.

**DRAGON'S-BLOOD.**—Two cases of fair lump sold without reserve at from 5l. 15s. to 5l. 17s. 6d., being fully steady. Eight cases of common of doubtful character offered without reserve, but no bid was forthcoming.

**ERGOT.**—Twelve bags of Russian sold without reserve at 1s. 6d. per lb. for dull greyish. Privately holders ask from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per lb.

**HONEY.**—Two barrels Cuban sold at 17s., and 10 cases thick brown liquid Californian at 28s. 6d., without reserve.

**IPECACUANHA.**—During the past fortnight there has been an unprecedented demand for ipecacuanha, and over 200 bales, mostly Rio, have left the warehouses, mostly for the United States. The demand is, therefore, a consumptive one and not speculative. By these deliveries the stocks now left in the warehouses are considerably depleted, being about 370 packages only, mostly Rio (Matto Grosso). Previous to the auction 5s. 3d. had been paid for very wirey Rio and 5s. 4½d. for good from second-hands, and for Cartagena 5s. 3d. was asked. In auction there was a fair demand, the tendency being, perhaps, a shade easier than the prices paid privately. Good plump Rio (Matto Grosso), of which little was offered, sold at 5s. 4d., or 1d. over the prices paid privately; dull wirey and partly mouldy at from 4s. 11d. to 5s. About 13 bales of Minas sold at 5s. per lb. all round for fair clean cultivated. Of Cartagena, 20 bales of dull grey were offered and bought in at 5s. 3d.; sales have been made privately at 5s.

**JALAP.**—A parcel of 25 bags small to bold mixed tuber rather wormy, sold, without reserve, at 4¼d. per lb. For fair sound 5½d. was wanted, a bid of 5d. being refused. Privately 5½d. per lb., net, is quoted on the spot.

**KINO.**—A case of good black sold, without reserve, at 5d. per lb.

**MYRRH.**—Sold at firm rates, 20 bales of fair blocky and dusty Aden sorts realising 92s. 6d. per cwt.

**NUX VOMICA.**—Medium to bold good bright Cochin sold at from 10s. to 10s. 6d. per cwt., and 47 packages ordinary dark Calcutta seed sold at 6s. 6d. per cwt.

**OILS, ESSENTIAL.**—Ten cases of Chinese *Star-aniseed* oil sold without reserve at 5s. 2d. per lb. Twelve cases of fine *Cananga* oil from Batavia were bought in at 10s. 6d. Ten cases of Japanese dementholised *Peppermint* oil were offered with all faults, on account of the underwriters, without reserve, and sold at 6s. Unworked Yazawa and Suzuki was limited at 6s. 6d. Five cases of McKesson & Robbins' "Wayne County" oil were limited at 12s. net. A case of West Indian distilled *Lime* oil sold at 1s. 8d.

**RHATANY.**—For a new parcel of fair Peruvian 7d. per lb. was wanted—gross for net, no discount.

**RHUBARB.**—Firm; 10 cases of small to bold flat High-dried good even pinky and greyish fracture sold at 1s. 1d. Four cases of good bold flat Shensi had been sold privately, and two cases of good Shensi pickings sold at 1s. 7d. subject. Twenty bags of English sold without reserve at from 3¼d. to 4d. per lb.

**SARSAPARILLA.**—Fair sound grey Jamaica was held at 1s. 1d. per lb., and a few bales of slightly coarse sold at 1s.; 21 bales of fair Guayaquil sold at 10d. to 10½d., and a bale of Mexican sold with all faults at 4¼d.

**SENNA.**—Considering the common quality offered, full to rather dearer prices were paid for Tinnevely, common to medium brown yellowish leaf selling at from 1¼d. to 2d., and pods at 1½d. to 2d. per lb.

**TAMARINDS.**—Fair black Calcutta pulp was bought in at 10s. per cwt.

**WAX, BEES.**—In demand. Good even brown Zanzibar sold at 7l. per cwt., as also did good pale yellow to dark rolls, with commoner and darker at 6l. 7s. 6d. For good red, part wormy, Mombassa a bid of 6l. 17s. 6d. was refused. Jamaica was in small supply, 7l. 5s. being wanted for greyish-brown. Privately good East India unbleached has been sold at 5l. 15s. per cwt.

**WAX, JAPANESE.**—Ten cases of yellowish squares sold without reserve at 65s., and good pale at 66s. per cwt.

The exports from Japan during the twelve months ending December were as follows:

	1901	1902	1903
Kin ...	4,049,300	4,216,000	3,521,400
Yen ...	610,000	790,000	1,061,000
[Kin = 13 lbs. Yen = 2s. 0½d.]			

### Cablegrams.

**BERGEN, March 16:**—The total catch of cod for the whole of Norway (including the winter fishing) now amounts to 10,874,000, yielding 3,873 barrels of oil. At the corresponding period of 1903 the catch was 3,724,000, and the yield 782 barrels, and in 1902 the catch was 16,308,000 and the yield 9,615 barrels. Although the weather continues favourable, the fishery has proved "utterly miserable." The price of finest non-congealing oil has advanced to 250s. per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen, and the market closes with a further upward tendency.

**HAMBURG, March 17:**—Refined camphor is quiet, at 700m. American HIGH oil of peppermint is quoted 14½m. per lb. Cod-liver oil and albumen are firmer.

**NEW YORK, March 17:**—Market here is active. Opium is slow of sale at \$2.85 per lb. in single cases. Quinine has advanced to 25c. per oz. Cascara sagrada shows an easier feeling, 17c. per lb. being quoted for new bark. Refined camphor is scarce at 93c. per lb. Balsam of copaiba is easy at 33s. per lb., and menthol is quiet at \$5.85. American HIGH oil of peppermint is strongly held at \$3.25. Both Rio and Cartagena ipecacuanha are firmer at \$1.30 and \$1.25 per lb. respectively.

### Heavy Chemicals.

There is a continued steady demand for main and miscellaneous products of the heavy-chemical market at all the main centres. The trade, of course, is not by any means what it might be or what could be wished, but all things taken into consideration it is very fair. Values all round remain steady at recent figures.

**ALKALI PRODUCE.**—Caustic soda is moving rather better at unalt red rates. Bleaching-powder steady. Ammonia alkali continues to maintain a strong tone both as regards demand and value. Soda-crystals are moving well, and the home-product is steadily displacing the inferior foreign make. Salteake is in good



request and value well maintained at about 32s. 6d. per ton, in bulk, free on rails.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA shows little change. Demand is rather quiet, and not much of importance is being done for forward. Nearest quotations: Beckton, 12l. 16s. 3d.; Beckton terms, 12l. 12s. 6d.; London, 12l. 12s. 6d. to 12l. 13s. 9d.; Leith, 12l. 11s. 3d. to 12l. 12s. 6d.; and Hull, 12l. 10s. to 12l. 11s. 3d.

SULPHOCYANIDES are in quiet demand only, at unchanged figures: Potassium, 7½d. to 7½d. per lb.; ammonium, 95-per-cent. 6½d. to 6½d. per lb.; and barium, 95 per cent, 3½d. to 3½d. per lb., f.o.b.

BROWN ACETATE OF LIME is moving better, and value has advanced to 5l. to 5l. 5s. per ton, c.i.f.

BENZOLS are very dull, at nominally unchanged figures of 10d. to 10½d. per gal. for 90-per-cent, and 7d. to 7½d. per gal. for 50-per cent. Aniline oil and salts continue to move fairly well, at 4½d. and 4½d. per lb. respectively.

PEARL-HARDENING is in somewhat increased demand, at 60s. to 65s. per ton, f.o.r. or f.o.b., in usual casks.

ZINC SALTS are moving moderately well. Zinc-sulphate crystals, 6l. to 6l. 5s. per ton. Zinc-chloride solution, 10½° Tw., 6l. 10s. to 6l. 15s. per ton.

### Liverpool Drug-market.

*Liverpool, March 16.*

CANARY-SEED.—One hundred bags have been sold at 60s. per quarter; sellers now ask 62s. 6d.

CASTOR OIL is unchanged on the spot at 2½d. per lb. for good second Calcutta. For shipment, price is rather firmer at 2½d. per lb. to the end of June. First-pressure French remains unaltered at 2½d. on the spot, at which retail sales have been made.

CHILLIES.—Fifty-five bags of Sierra Leone have been sold at 42s. 6d. per cwt.

GUINEA GRAINS.—Small sales have been made in store at 45s. per cwt.

HONEY (CHILIAN).—Sales of Pile 1 have been made at 22s. 6d. per cwt, in store.

IRISH MOSS.—Further sales of common have been made at 23s. per cwt, in store.

JABORANDI-LEAVES.—Sales have been made of small leaf at 9d. per lb.

SULPHATE OF COPPER keeps very steady at 21l. 5s. per ton.

WAX (CARNAUBA).—Continues steady, sales of yellow having been made at 114s. per cwt., and grey at 107s. 6d. per cwt.

WAX (PARAFFIN).—Makers have now advanced their price to 4½d. per lb. for 130°, and other grades in proportion. It is expected that these prices will be maintained during the next few months, and may possibly advance.

### American Drug-market.

*New York, March 8.*

Business generally is of fair volume with an absence of speculative movements. Interest is chiefly centred in products affected by the war in the Far East.

ALOES.—Curaçao has sold at 3½c, but there is little doing in this article.

BEE SWAX is quiet, but firm, with 31c. asked for crude yellow.

ANISEED OIL is tending upward, and \$1.50 is generally asked, though \$1.25 will buy.

CAMPHOR.—Stocks are steadily diminishing, and refiners state that they will have to shut down in a few months unless supplies are forthcoming. Values are strong at 90c. in barrels.

CANTHARIDES.—Russian are firm at 75c.

CARBOLIC ACID is firm at 14c., with some dealers asking 14½c.

CASCARA SAGRADA can still be bought at 17c. for new bark. There is little demand, but the market has an upward tendency.

CASSIA OIL is in light supply, and 80c. is an inside quotation.

COCA-LEAVES are firmer, and have sold up to 18c. For prime Truxillo 19c. is now asked.

COCAINE is unsettled and nominally unchanged at \$3.25, but dealers are cutting prices.

DAMIANA-LEAVES are quiet, but steady, at 10c. to 12c.

ERGOT.—Demand is poor, but the market for Russian is firm at 36c. Spanish is quiet at 50c.

GOLDEN SEAL (HYDRASTIS).—Small lots of a few pounds can be bought at \$1.20, but the general quotation remains at \$1.25.

IPECACUANHA.—Cartagena is firmer, with \$1.20 asked.

MANDRAKE is very scarce, and nothing is obtainable below 8½c.

MENTHOL.—Small lots are offered at \$0.85, with \$6 generally asked. The market is still tending upward.

OPIMUM is slow of sale, at \$2.85.

PEPPERMINT OIL is not obtainable below \$2.75, and holders ask up to \$3. Supplies in the west are becoming much reduced, and the tendency is to a higher market.

QUININE remains unchanged on the basis of 23c., though the trade has daily been expecting an advance. Demand is poor, and little business is passing.

SENEGA is quoted 74c. on the spot, but goods to arrive are offered at 72c.

### Cod-liver Oil.

A report from Christiania dated March 7 states that the result of last week's catch was a very poor one, and quite contrary to expectation. The oil-percentage of the liver has diminished somewhat, and prices of the liver have advanced considerably. The fishing outside of the Lofoten districts is less satisfactory this week. The catch of cod in the Lofotens up to date is as follows:

	Cod	Barrels of Steam-refined Oil	Barrels of Liver
March 7, 1904 ...	616,000	189	214
March 7, 1903 ...	120,000	—	—
March 8, 1902 ...	4,700,000	3,164	1,640
March 8, 1901 ...	4,000,000	4,429	3,570
March 10, 1900 ...	2,900,000	3,560	2,400

The result for the whole country, including the Finmarken fishing before Christmas, amounts to 7,100,000 cod, which has yielded 3,078 barrels of oil and 2,653 barrels of liver. Finest quality of medicinal non-freezing oil is offered at 230s. per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen. The market shows an upward tendency owing to the poor catch.

### Chinese Wood Oil.

The American Consul-General at Hankow reports, under date of December 24, 1903, that over \$1,890,000 worth of wood oil was shipped from that port. Previous to 1899, when the attention of the United States importers was called to its valuable properties, only three small shipments had been made from Hankow to the United States. After the report which called attention thereto was published, inquiries began to be received and orders commenced to come in from the United States. Now two United States firms have located branches at Hankow for the purpose of exporting wood oil. One of the firms deals exclusively in this article, and it has shipped nearly 200,000 gals. since last autumn. Previous to 1900 the oil was shipped to Europe in considerable quantities. There is a great difficulty in obtaining barrels wherewith to export the oil, and for this reason an American firm at Hankow imported from New York shooks for 5,000 barrels and machinery for setting them up.

### Ceylon Cardamoms in Australia.

As might have been expected, the visit of Mr. J. A. Spence, the Cardamom Commissioner to Australia, has proved very discouraging to the Ceylon planters, the local requirements being of the smallest. On his arrival at Melbourne Mr. Spence sent samples to all the principal importers, whose names were obtained from the Custom-house books, but the answer from one and all was to the effect that "Our requirements are too small to import any large quantity from Ceylon." At Sydney he called on several of the large houses, but got much the same answer as at Melbourne. Nothing could be done in Western Australia either, all supplies being obtained from Victoria.

At a meeting of the Cardamom Committee in Ceylon on December 8, it was resolved that the cardamom-growers be once more appealed to for a contribution of 50c. per cultivated acre to enable the committee to carry on the work for 1904. The Cardamom Committee reports that out of 10,000 acres under cultivation only some 4,000 acres have sent in subscriptions amounting to Rs.2,059. Out of this fund Rs.1,322 have been expended in sending out samples to various countries and the St. Louis Exhibition, and in paying for special reports from the Continent. The committee still has to face the cost of advertising at St. Louis Exhibition, and would wish to still further extend the sending out of samples to other parts of the world. In view of the very small amount now in hand for above purposes, the committee is of opinion that the work cannot be carried on unless complete support is given by all the cardamom-growers in Ceylon.

### Italian Bleach in U.S.A.

An attempt is being made to introduce Italian electrolytic bleaching powder into the New York market, and a large maker is negotiating with several firms to accept the agency. So far the terms offered on this side have been considerably below ruling market prices. Another difficulty is the inability of certain large importers to find consumers for a greater quantity of bleaching-powder than is now supplied by foreign manufacturers whom they represent.

ACTIVITY in the surgical-instrument trade is reported from Tuttlingen, Wurtemberg. One of the largest establishments in the branch has been working overtime for weeks.



## B.P. Melting-points.

The following are further opinions respecting Dr. Dobbin's suggestions (see *C. & D.*, March 5 and 11):

From Professor William A. Tilden, D.Sc., F.R.S., of the Royal College of Science, President of the Chemical Society:

The usual method is found to be sufficient for all practical purposes in scientific work, and in its simplicity and rapidity leaves little to be desired. It is not found in practice that there are great discrepancies in the estimation of melting-points made by different observers, save in a comparatively small number of exceptional cases—such as, for example, osazones, and in cases where the fusion is attended by decomposition.

When, in cases of dispute, it is necessary to determine the melting-point as exactly as possible, the B.P. gives instructions which will enable two observers to get the same results within a small fraction of a degree, and the method is well recognised and commonly practised. The application of a correction for the exposed part of the mercurial column is necessary when the temperature is high and the length of the exposed thread considerable. One possible cause of slight discrepancies in observed melting-points which is not referred to in the official instructions is the diversity in the size of thermometer-bulbs. When large it is possible that there may be an appreciable difference in the temperature between the contents of the capillary tube and the bulb of the thermometer, which may not have had time to reach the temperature of the bath when melting is observed. The bulb should in general be small, and as the temperature of fusion is approached the heating should be slow.

It should be remembered that such tests are supposed to be performed by practised hands, and the suggestion that the melting, solidification, and re-melting of the substance is introduced for the purpose of drying it looks like an attempt to pick a quarrel with the instructions at any cost. It should be obvious that this re-melting is prescribed merely for the purpose of getting the substance firmly into contact with the walls of the glass tube and obtaining a second reading of the melting-point, which will usually be more exact than the first.

Messrs. Helbing & Passmore, 63 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., write:

In our experience, the method of determining melting-points described on page 436 of the British Pharmacopœia, 1893, is generally satisfactory, although some of the instructions with regard to details are open to criticism and may be improved upon. The alternative method suggested in Dr. Dobbin's report, requiring 15 or 20 grams of the substance to be experimented upon, is in our opinion unsound. Not only does the large quantity of material required render it in most cases impracticable, but also as a general method it is open to the objection that many organic substances undergo more or less rapid decomposition or chemical change in a melted state, and the case is therefore not analogous to a mixture of ice and water. For the same reason the official practice of first melting the undried substance and then cooling again until it solidifies before determining the melting-point is also objectionable, and we quite agree with Dr. Dobbin that this does not in any satisfactory manner take the place of thoroughly drying the substance in the first instance. The melting-point is also usually much more sharply defined when the substance is in a finely powdered state than when a congealed mass. How the substance is to be dried—whether at 100 °C. or a lower or higher temperature, or by other dehydrating agents—depends upon the nature of the substance. Usually "dried at 100 °C." will be understood, but in cases where that is undesirable the method of drying should be stated together with the melting-point.

The importance of the melting-point as a criterion of purity of many organic substances employed in medicine and pharmacy induced us to describe in detail the method employed by us when suggesting pharmacopœial requirements for new organic remedies. We stated (Helbing's "Pharmacological Record," No. 36, May, 1895) that "the dried powder is introduced into a capillary glass tube previously sealed at one end by the insertion of the middle (not the end) of a longer tube in the flame; the tube is then attached to the side of a thermometer immersed in a bath of water, oil, or sulphuric acid, so that the powder is close to the bulb of the thermometer, the open end of the tube naturally projecting above the surface of the liquid. As the column of mercury when heated should be below, or not more than a few degrees above, the surface of the bath, it is convenient to employ a thermometer of the Zincke type. The bath should be heated to within five degrees of the melting-point of the substance to be tested before the insertion of the tube, so as to minimise the exposure of the substance to heat, and the temperature of the bath then raised very gradually, stirring the whole time."

We still adhere to this method of carrying out a melting point determination as being both the simplest and, on the whole, the

most reliable, in that concordant results are obtained by different observers. We would, however, emphasise one or two points. In the official directions it is stated that the glass tube should be sealed at the lower end. The directions should make it clear that the open lower end of the tube should not be introduced into the flame for sealing, otherwise water, and possibly other products of partial combustion, condense in the upper part of the tube and vitiate the results. This is a common source of error with inexperienced operators. The tubes may be most conveniently made by rapidly drawing out an ordinary test-tube to the desired diameter.

Although, for the reason above given, the substance should not be subjected to a temperature near its melting-point longer than necessary, for which reason we recommend that the bath should be previously heated to within five degrees of the melting-point, it is nevertheless very necessary that the temperature should subsequently be raised very gradually—say, 1° C. in a minute, or even more slowly if the bulb of the thermometer has not thin glass walls. It is quite easy to make an error of one or two degrees if the temperature is raised more rapidly than recorded by the thermometer. As a matter of laboratory practice, it is, in fact, always desirable to control the determination by affixing to the opposite side of the thermometer a tube containing a pure standard sample of the substance in question.

With regard to the official directions for correction of the thermometric reading, we also think them pedantic, as, assuming that a suitable thermometer is employed, and compared with a standard thermometer, the error is negligible.

From Dr. F. B. Power, Director of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories:

So far as I am aware, there are among the more recent national Pharmacopœias only two—the British and the German—which give any details respecting the method to be employed in determining the melting-points of official substances. The suggestions made by Dr. Dobbin, appear to me quite adequate for the usual requirements. As thermometers of verified accuracy are now easily obtainable, it would, however, be practicable to make the requirement that only such should be used, rather than that the thermometer, "prior to its being used, shall have been compared with a standard thermometer and provided with a table of corrections." Although most chemical text-books contain some description of the methods for determining melting points, and all those who have been favoured with a course of pharmaceutical training might be expected to be familiar with them, it is probably expedient that they should also receive some consideration in a Pharmacopœia, together with the conditions under which other physical constants, such as boiling-points, densities, &c., are to be determined. In connection with melting-points, it is, of course, well known that, however precise the instructions may be, slight differences will frequently be noted by different observers, quite irrespective of the purity of the substance, these being dependent upon the rapidity with which the substance is heated or other personal factors, but which are in most cases quite inappreciable.

I completely agree with Dr. Dobbin in his criticism of the instructions on this subject as given in the present Pharmacopœia, especially with regard to the correction to be employed for the emergent column of mercury in the thermometer, which in most of the cases under consideration would be an unnecessary refinement. It is probable that by far the greater number of melting-points recorded in chemical literature do not embody this correction, and when for strictly scientific purposes it is desirable to attain this degree of exactness, it is preferable to use a thermometer of such a length as to permit of the mercury column being completely immersed in the liquid. The criticism concerning the pharmacopœial instructions for the correction of melting-points naturally applies as well to the determination of boiling-points, which are more correctly and conveniently indicated by the use of thermometers of such a length as to permit of the mercurial column being completely in the vapour of the liquid. It may incidentally be noted that in the formula of the Pharmacopœia for the correction of temperature the coefficient of expansion of mercury in the glass is given as 0.000143, whereas the more correct figure is apparently 0.000154 (compare *Berichte*, 1833, 22, page 3072).

While consideration is being given to the subject of melting-points, it will perhaps be of interest to note the instructions given in the German Pharmacopœia, 4th Edition, 1890, which differ very considerably from those of the present British Pharmacopœia, and in some respects are more explicit than those indicated by Dr. Dobbin in his preliminary draft. They are as follows:

"The determination of the melting-point is to be conducted in a small, narrow, glass tube, open at one end, and having an internal diameter of at most 1 mm. In this is to be brought so much of the finely powdered substance, previously dried in a desiccator over sulphuric acid for at least twenty-four hours, that when shaken down it forms a layer of 2 mm., or at most 3 mm., in depth. The tube is then attached to a suitable thermometer, and brought into a test-tube of about 33 mm. diameter containing



sulphuric acid, which is gradually heated, with frequent stirring. The temperature at which the opaque substance coalesces in the form of transparent drops is to be regarded as its melting-point.

"The determination of the melting-point of fats and fat-like substances is to be conducted in a thin-walled, small, glass tube, open at both ends, and having an internal diameter of at most 1 mm. Into this is drawn so much of the clear, melted fat that it forms a layer about 1 cm. in depth at the bottom of the tube. The tube is now allowed to remain for about twenty-four hours at a low temperature (about 10° C.), in order that the fat may completely solidify. It is then attached to a suitable thermometer, and brought into a test-tube having a diameter of about 30 mm. containing water. The water is to be gradually heated whilst being frequently stirred. The temperature at which the column of fat becomes transparent and rapidly rises in the tube is to be regarded as the melting-point."

It will be observed that the German text specifies "a suitable thermometer," which broadly implies that it shall be accurate and adapted to the particular purpose.

In conclusion, I may suggest the desirability of incorporating in the next revision of the Pharmacopoeia a short note explanatory of the method of determining the optical rotation of both liquids and solids, and of extending the application of this physical constant to a larger number of official substances.

## South African News.

(From our own Correspondents.)

**Note.**—THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is regularly supplied by order to all the members of all the Pharmaceutical Societies in British South Africa, viz.:

SOUTH AFRICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.  
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF CAPE COLONY.  
NATAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.  
TRANSVAAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.  
RHODESIA PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.  
NORTHERN DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.  
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

### Cape Colony.

At the Rosebank Agricultural Show, held during the three days ending February 19, an exhibit of Jeyes' fluid, powder, and sheep-dip occupied prominent positions, and the local agents at Cape Town (Messrs. Otto Langsberg & Co.) lost no opportunity of reminding farmers and others of their products. Messrs. R. Wilson, Son & Co., Cape Town, the agents of Spratt's Patent (Limited), London, made a good show of this firm's products. Among the many disinfectants exhibited was formalin, by Mr. R. Demuth, who also had machinery running for the ageing of wine.

A NURSERYMAN claims that bulb-raising could be carried on in Cape Colony very profitably, the bulbs being exported to England, where there is a large market for them. He states that he has recently received inquiries from Great Britain for 100,000 bulbs of *Lilium longiflorum* and 5 tons of tuberose, each of which could be raised by an enterprising farmer for export very profitably. Hundreds of tons of bulbs are exported to Great Britain every year from America and Holland, and there was no evident reason why British Colonies should not benefit themselves by the profits derived from this industry.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Colonial Pharmacy Board was held at Cape Town on February 11. There were present Messrs. Walsh, Mathew, Darroll, Helmore, McJannet, and the Secretary. Mr. Walsh was elected President for the ensuing three years, and it was resolved that the Executive Committee should consist of all the members of the Board. The annual report for Parliament was read and adopted. Eight applications for registration were accepted, and two rejected owing to the certificates produced not meeting the requirements of the Medical and Pharmacy Act. Mr. Darroll was deputed to interview the Assistant-Treasurer in connection with the issue of fiscal licences to chemists and druggists. Mr. Rupert Gill was reappointed Secretary to the Board. Other routine business was disposed of.

AT CAPE TOWN, Byron Westcott Moore, a European, was arraigned before Mr. C. W. Broers, A.R.M., charged with having extracted a tooth, he not being a licensed dentist.

Mr. W. B. Shaw, for the defence, called the accused, who stated that he held a diploma as a doctor of dental surgery, which he received from the Pennsylvania College, where he passed an examination. This diploma was in accordance with the announcement on his card. He also passed an examination in America, which qualified him to practise as a dentist there. He said that he was employed by Dr. Abbott as his assistant, and received a monthly salary for his services. He denied ever having in any way pretended to be a qualified colonial practitioner in the Colony. William Bullock stated that he had sole control of Dr. Abbott's business and had full control of the financial affairs during the doctor's absence in England, stating further, in corroboration of the statement made by the defendant, that same was under monthly salary, which he paid. The defendant was committed for trial.

AT BEACONSFIELD the case of Mr. Henry B. Champion, chemist and druggist, came on for judgment, having been remitted by the Crown Prosecutor. Mr. Champion had been committed for trial on a charge of contravening Section 34 of the Pharmacy Act by practising as a dentist without a licence. On December 9 he extracted a tooth for Private Kelsall, of the Cape Police, charging 2s. 6d. for the operation. Mr. Helmore (of the firm of Helmore & Alldridge, and a member of the Pharmacy Board), called for the defence, deposed that it was a common practice for chemists to extract teeth as part of their business. Mr. A. W. Hyde, who defended, contended that the mere drawing of a tooth did not constitute a contravention of the section in question, as a man could not be said to be practising as a dentist if he extracted a single tooth. A dentist, he contended, was a man who made and fixed teeth. Mr. Stenhouse Tilney, Additional R.M., held that the accused, having accepted payment, had infringed the section in question, and inflicted a fine of 1l. An appeal has been lodged. The Northern District Chemists' Association is taking the matter up in order to obtain an authoritative ruling, this being the first case of the kind tried locally.

### Rhodesia.

MESSRS. SMART & COPLEY, of Bulawayo, have been appointed chemists to his Honour the Administrator (Sir W. H. Milton, K.C.M.G.).

THE BULAWAYO MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY gave a performance of "The Mikado" at the Empire Theatre, Bulawayo, on February 8. The hit of the evening was made by Mr. G. A. Pingstone, F.C.S., analytical and consulting chemist, Bulawayo, who played Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner. His acting and singing led to much applause and many encores. Another musical chemist with dramatic aptitude who figured largely in the *dramatis persone* was Mr. G. E. Truscott, of Lennons (Limited). The performance, which was a most successful one, was on behalf of the Bulawayo Memorial Hospital Fund.

MESSRS. SMART & COPLEY, chemists, Bulawayo, received last month a quaint letter to the following effect:

DEAR SIR,—I have heard from Okayama who is Japanese Photographer, that which you want some retoucher. Will you kindly give me about the retouching work? I should like very much works under your Studio. I trust that you may find out about my nice hand, indeed! As I am working 7 years upon the Photographic work. I request to your answer that you want or not.

Please kindly Let me know as soon as you possible and oblige me.

I have one hand of Printer also, if you like receive with me I will very glad,—I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Japanese Photographer

### Natal.

Mr. F. M. DARROLL (representing Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co.) was at Durban on February 20, after a round trip by Bulawayo, Salisbury, Beira, &c. He speaks well of business-matters in the various towns he has visited.

THE DURBAN CORPORATION has obtained a conviction against a well-known firm of wholesale merchants for selling lard adulterated with a large percentage of cocoanut oil. The fine was a heavy one (20l.), as large quantities of the compound had been sold.



## American Notes.

**HOSPITAL-SUPPLIES.**—The Commission on Lunacy for the State of New York, controlling all State hospitals for the insane, has recently adopted a noteworthy plan for the purchase of medical supplies. The supplies are divided into seven classes: (1) chemicals; (2) pharmaceutical preparations—including pills, tablets, fluid extracts, &c.; (3) plasters, dressings, &c.; (4) glassware, rubber goods, and druggists' sundries; (5) surgical instruments and appliances; (6) laboratory-supplies; (7) dry drugs, oils, and miscellaneous items and not included in any of the other classes. Under the new system only certain brands of manufactures will be accepted by the hospitals. Amongst the manufacturers who have been approved by the Commission are the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, Powers & Weightman, Rosengarten & Son, Merck & Co., Charles Pfizer & Co., and Squibb & Sons, for chemicals; Parke, Davis & Co., Sharp & Dohme, and John Wyeth & Brother, for pharmaceutical preparations; the J. Elwood Lee Company for plasters, dressings, &c. In the purchase of articles included in classes 4, 5, 6, and 7, the superintendents of the various hospitals will be allowed to exercise their discretion until the plan of selection in the first three classes has been tried. The Commission will require the hospital apothecaries to manufacture all alcoholic fluid-extracts now purchased in quantities of 5 pints and upwards, elixirs, ointments, &c., and a number of preparations containing alcohol and made according to standard formulas. This is to secure for the hospitals the benefit derived from the use of duty-free alcohol. One hospital only, the Hudson River State Hospital, has been officially designated by the Commissioners as one at which new remedies may be tried, and until the new preparations have been approved of at this hospital no requisition from other hospitals for new remedies will be honoured.

**U.S.A. COLLEGES OF PHARMACY.**—According to Professor Wilbur L. Scoville, who is Secretary of the Publication Committee of the newly established "Journal of the Association of the Alumni of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy," there are eighty colleges of pharmacy in the United States and Canada, besides eight or more correspondence schools which aim to do more than a local business. The increase in the number of colleges has been very rapid in the last decade, and at the present time there seems to be a general movement toward securing more schools. The schools organised previous to 1870, not including correspondence schools, number twelve, between 1870 and 1880 there were six, between 1880 and 1890 sixteen, between 1890 and 1900 twenty-six, since 1900 twenty-one, making a total of eighty-one. It will be noted that there has been an increasing tendency to recognise the value of pharmacy schools since 1880, and that since 1900 a quarter of the whole number of schools in operation were started. Another significant fact is the recognition which is being given to pharmacy by other branches of learning. Thus, the greater portion of the schools of pharmacy are not independent schools, but are affiliated with other schools, as follows:

Independent schools of pharmacy	...	...	...	21
Departments of universities	...	...	...	32
Departments of medical schools	...	...	...	16
Affiliated with other schools (agricultural colleges, &c.)	...	...	...	12

This means that the medical colleges as well as universities are beginning to recognise the value and influence of educated pharmacists, and it also indicates the value of affiliations in educational lines. About twenty of the number receive some support from the States, because of their affiliations with State institutions. The curricula of pharmacy schools is broadening. Physiology, bacteriology, languages, toxicology, jurisprudence, therapeutics, physics, anatomy, and kindred subjects, have a place in a large proportion of the schools, in addition to the old standard subjects, which are being continued. Laboratory exercises are an important and, in most schools, a large part of the teaching. But there is also a tendency toward the more classical studies.

**CYANIDE OF SODIUM** may now be imported into Canada free of duty

## Colonial and Foreign News.

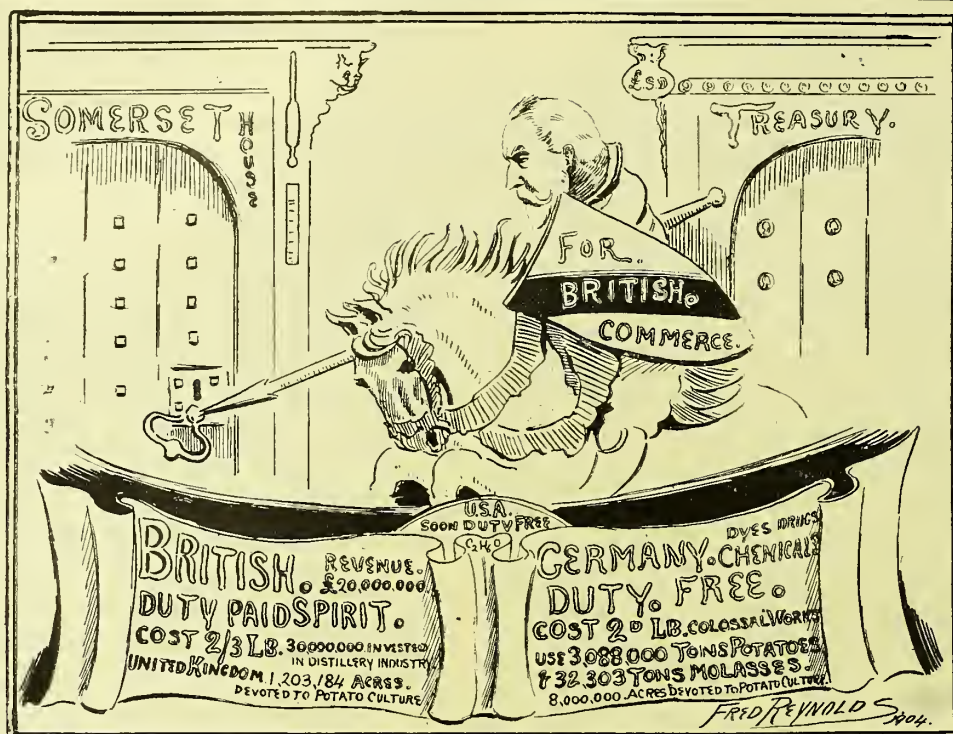
**QUICKSILVER IN ITALY.**—The output of the quicksilver-mines of Italy in 1902, including those of Abbadia San Salvatore, Cornacchino, Siele and Montebuono, was 259 metric tons. The ore treated amounted to 44,266 tons, showing a recovery of 5.85 kilos. per ton.

**PROPRIETARIES IN GERMANY.**—The Association for the protection of the rights of the manufacturers of pharmaceutical specialities of Wurzburg has forwarded a petition to the Reichstag in connection with the estimates relating to the Imperial Sanitary Board. At the end of the petition it is suggested that Parliament should take steps in the direction of the preparation of regulations for the Empire in regard to the business in proprietaries, and that until this has been done the regulations which came into force on January 1, 1904, should be abrogated or modified in respect of the specialities placed upon the first (A) list. In connection with this subject Herr Lahr (President of the Association) has forwarded copies of a pamphlet to all members of Parliament, Chambers of Commerce, and others interested in the matter, advocating equal rights for all, and criticising the regulations concerning proprietary medicines.

**THE GERMAN SALT SYNDICATE.**—The North German Salt Association (Salt Syndicate) has approached the Prussian Minister of Commerce with a request for an increase in the price of salt, the application being necessary owing to the large interest of the Prussian State mining authorities in the industry and also in the syndicate. Apparently prices have fallen since the introduction of outside competition by the opening of the Benthe mines, near Hanover, the price at present representing a reduction of 11s. per ton. The directors of the Benthe Salt-works are now desirous of joining the syndicate; but the Minister of Commerce has declined to act as the intermediary between the company and the combination, and has also refused to agree to the advance in price suggested by the private members of the syndicate. It would appear that the inclusion of the Benthe works would necessitate a reduction in the allotted production of the State mines, and to this the Minister is decidedly opposed in order to ensure permanent employment to the Government workmen.

**DUTCH PATENT LAW WANTED.**—The Central Bureau for Commercial Treaties of Berlin draws attention to the remarkable state of affairs existing in Holland owing to the non-existence of a patent law in that country, and to the disadvantages under which the German chemical-industry in particular labours as a consequence, and also on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the Dutch Trade-marks Act, which is administered in such a lax manner that it can scarcely be said to afford any protection to foreign firms. It is stated by the Bureau that German chemical-works, which cause their preparations to be protected in Holland under a specific name, find imitations announced or offered under almost the same description in the Dutch trade journals. If the attention of the Dutch firms concerned is drawn to the fact that the name is German property according to Dutch law, the writers expose themselves to ironical replies and the friendly intimation that they need not get angry about the matter as the protection is of no value, and a legal action would only lead to useless expenses. This ascertained, the Bureau remarks, is not without foundation, as a word protected in type can be imitated in writing without punishment, while if protection is obtained for Latin print the latter can be copied in Gothic type without the liability of any penalties. When well-founded complaints are made the Dutch Government is said to seek to quieten them by the explanation that a Patent Law Bill is in course of preparation. The Central Bureau states, however, that this stage of preparation has already extended over several years without any practical results, and the losses and displeasure of the German firms have increased in the meantime. It is therefore suggested that the German Government should take up the question and enter into negotiations with Holland, and the Bureau has therefore determined to collect all available proofs for presentation to the Government, and is inviting the co-operation of the chemical-trade for this purpose.





"When it tireth thee, essay the other door, valiant St. Thomas."

## Trade-marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with C. N. DALTON, Esq., C.B., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost £1, obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," February 10, 1904.)

Combination of devices; for tooth-paste. By Veuve Albert Séguin, Bordeaux, c/o Irvine & Borrowman, 25 Crutched Friars, E.C. 255,083.

EUCHRYMEO ("Euo" disclaimed); for a complexion-cream. By J. R. Barrett, 16 The Parade, Leamington, chemist. 259,190.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," February 17, 1904.)

"SCALITÉ" ("Scale" disclaimed); for a mixture of magnesium oxide and other chemical substances, and for crucibles and cupels. By Johnson & Sons, Manufacturing Chemists (Limited), 23 Cross Street, Finsbury, E.C. 259,611 and 259,612.

"VIM"; for goods in Class 2. By Lever Brothers (Limited), Port Sunlight, Cheshire. 259,248.

"TALENA"; for pills. By J. Forbes, 9-10 Dunedin House, Basinghall Avenue, E.C. 257,693.

"MAXILS"; for chemicals. By Alfred Bishop (Limited), 48 Spelman Street, N.E. 259,890.

"NASWOL"; for chemicals. By Emma Rebecca Halcrow, 56 West Side, Wandsworth Common, S.W. 261,009.

TRIGENOL"; for chemicals. By F. Hoffmann, La Roche & Co., Greuzacherstrasse 184, Bâle, Switzerland. 260,287.

Combination of devices and word "MALTICO"; for an infants' and invalids' food. By the Maltico Food Company, 2 London Road, Kingston Cross, Portsmouth. 257,956.

"LISTERINE" ("Lister" disclaimed); for perfumed toilet-soaps. By the Lambert Pharmacal Company, 2,101 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri. 259,141.

"FAGO"; for photographic and optical goods. By C. P. Goerz, 5 Holborn Circus, E.C. 259,504.

"MELDUS," "RIOLINE" ("Rio" disclaimed), and "DULSOLINE"; for goods in Class 48. By E. B. Ormerod, 48 Grove Park Gardens, Chiswick, W. 259,341-2-3.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," February 24, 1904.)

"SAUPOLON"; for a vegetable colour for polony-skins. By Finney & Stackhouse, Browning Street, Hulme, Manchester. 260,233.

"PINAGESTINE" ("Pine" disclaimed); for a digestive &c. elixir. By the Churchill Chemical Company, 108 Murray Street, New York City, U.S.A. 258,294.

"HIAWATHA"; for Indian oil. By Juliette de Medici Clarke, 49 Eaton Terrace, S.W. 259,207.

"QUERALL"; for medicated soap. By J. Knight & Sons (Limited), Silvertown Soap-works, Victoria Docks, E. 259,768.

"SOLCREO"; for table-salt. By W. Greenlee and A. Myddleton, 144 Antrim Road, Belfast. 259,616.

"LALO"; for goods in Class 48. By W. Wiglesworth, 13 Regency Square, Brighton. 260,050.

"CURELLO" ("Cure" disclaimed); for hair-wash and toilet-preparations. By Emily Elizabeth Lowe, Elmdale, Bridgetown, Tonnes. 260,065.

"DENTALIA" ("Dental" disclaimed); for a tooth-powder. By H. Fahl, Royal Exchange, Glasgow. 260,106.

"ITHOLINE"; for perfumery, &c. By R. Schueremans, 137 Cheapside, E.C. 260,347.

"LOOPING THE LOOP"; for a perfume. By Ed. Pinaud, 18 Place Vendôme, Paris. 260,393.

"MAZO"; for furniture cream. By D. Mason & Co., Lawley Street, Dudley. 260,071.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," March 2, 1904.)

"ZOBEOQ"; for chemicals, for photographic instruments and apparatus, and for photographic paper. By R. & J. Beck (Limited), 68 Cornhill, E.C. 260,166, 260,477, and 260,478.

"LASSOL"; for moth and vermin killer. By M. Lobenthal, 11 Bridgewater Street, E.C. 260,024.

"GORNALIA"; for goods in Class 2. By E. A. Underhill, 108 Kent Street, Upper Gornal, near Dudley. 260,182.